



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Farewell to Wind in the Willows

After 27 years, Preschool Must Move to a New Neighborhood

By Wendy Hanamura

For 27 years, if you needed a smile, you could always go to a small storefront on the northwest corner of Church and Cesar Chavez streets. There, if you peeked in the window past the blue gingham curtains, you'd be sure to catch a glimpse of budding artists and architects, hear the delighted laughter of 3-year-olds, and know that Wind in the Willows preschool was in full swing.

On July 1, the checkered curtains must come down. Bulldozers will flatten the big blue fence to make way for new condominiums. On a bright summer day, a Noe Valley institution will leave the neighborhood. "I'll miss the sense of neighborliness," mused Pat O'Connor, the school's director for 14 years. "In San Francisco, you don't often know your neighbors, but in Noe Valley we do."

Priced Out of Noe

As with at least three other neighborhood preschools, Wind in the Willows is losing its lease—driven from Noe Valley by the prospect of paying triple the current rent.

"Noe Valley has changed. There are fewer and fewer working-class people in the neighborhood," says Joyce Bautista Harrison, a parent and teacher at Wind in the Willows for the past 16 years. "When I first came here in 1984, there were more families with one parent at home, and more dads at home. That's the saddest thing. That's why we have to leave Noe Valley—we're being priced out."

Yet in a spiraling real estate market, this small school of 50 families has managed to purchase its own building 10 minutes up the road on Monterey Boulevard in the Sunnyside District. Grandparents, parents, and alumni are pulling together to renovate an old television repair shop into a warm, welcoming place for children. The school must raise an additional \$40,000 before it can open its doors in September.

Most of the school's families will be making the trek to the new location, including Noe Valley resident Kathleen Maxwell and her 4-year-old daughter Mariella.

"It's hard to replicate this philosophy and environment in other schools," says Maxwell, a professor at Santa Clara University. "I love the emphasis on social skills and creativity, that it's not academic. That's the last thing these kids need, considering the future that lies before most of them."

Remembering Happier Days

For a generation of preschoolers and parents, Wind in the Willows has felt like a second home. "It was such a safe, happy



Pat O'Connor helps this year's crop of kids at Wind in the Willows select some geranium shoots for transplanting to the school's new home in the Sunnyside District. Skyrocketing rents have forced the school to abandon its Church Street home of 27 years. Left to right: Pat O'Connor, Ava Burton, Vikram Nigam, Kai Brumaghim, and Robbie Marshall. Photo by Pamela Gerard

place," recalls Noe Valley resident Bill Russell-Shapiro. "Very sunny, with a muddy garden, lots of laughing children, and a few adults who obviously loved kids."

Russell-Shapiro can still conjure up his daughter Maddy's first day of school. "She was too young to stay for lunch and when I picked her up that first day, she burst into tears, crying, 'Daddy, no have

no lunch box!' So we marched down to a little store and bought her a lunch box—something wildly inappropriate like the Great Hulk," he laughed. "For the next year, she happily carried her lunch box to school—empty!"

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'Uncle Chuck' of Sun Valley Dairy

He Put the 'Pop' in the Mom and Pop Store

By Alison Pence

It is my good fortune to live near a corner store with fresh baguettes, coffee, fruits, vegetables, pet food, Pampers, a good copy machine, and a beaming, good-natured proprietor.

Chuck Rafidi, who owns Chuck's Sun Valley Dairy at 28th and Church, has endeared himself to his customers by going the extra mile. When my son repeatedly got the same colored ball from the Superball machine when he really wanted the ball with the stars in it, Chuck opened his drawer and gave him the prize. When my friend developed a serious illness that required a special diet, Chuck ordered soy products and other items for her. He will run a tab or accept your UPS delivery. "I believe in extra service," he says. "I try to make everyone feel comfortable so they will want to come back."

Chuck appears to be the ideal manager for a busy Mom and Pop. He is always even-tempered when there is a rush, and serves everyone with courtesy and respect.

Born Shawki Rafidi in the West Bank nine miles north of Jerusalem, Chuck came here after high school to live with his brother and sister. He arrived in San Francisco in 1966, pre-Summer of Love.

Chuck attended City College and then went to work for Macy's in 1968. For 10 years he worked at Macy's Warehouse, doing everything from gift wrap and jewelry repair to stringing tennis rackets. He also worked in his brother's store in the

Ingleside District. But when he got married in 1976, he found that his income was not enough to support his growing family. That's when he decided to look for a store to buy.

Sun Valley was once a local dairy, with its processing and distribution center where the Alemany Farmer's Market is now. The dairy had a chain of stores throughout the city. When Chuck bought the store in 1979, he kept the sign hanging over the door and personalized it by putting his name at the top. He gets to the store at 8 in the morning and leaves at closing, 10:30 most weeknights and 11:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

A Family Man

Chuck is 52 years young. He lives in Daly City with his wife, Samia, and their three children, Claudia, 22, George, 21, and Christopher, 13. Although his free time is limited, he enjoys bowling with his youngest and also likes to walk. You won't find him watching much football or baseball until the teams enter the playoffs.

May 15, 2000, was Chuck's 21st anniversary under the Sun Valley sign. He has worked 12-hour days, seven days a week, for most of that time. Samia, George, and Christopher all work at the store, too. Chuck has one employee, Tim Aliopolous, who cashiers, restocks the goods, and "is an all-round help," he says.

The store is open every single holiday throughout the year. Still, "it's a good business to be in," says Chuck. "You're your own boss, and the long hours pay off. I hope to retire in eight more years."

Whether it's due to his hard work or family and customer support, Chuck can

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Mission YMCA Wants to Build a Y in Noe Valley

Charity Has Its Eye on James Lick Schoolyard

By Heidi Anderson

Amid the controversy surrounding Noe Valley's explosive growth, dwindling open space, and clamor for more room for recreation comes a new prospect for the neighborhood skyline. The Mission YMCA is exploring the possibility of building a full-service Y—with pool and gymnasium—in the heart of Noe Valley.

The site most favored by YMCA executives is the upper yard of James Lick Middle School, on Castro between 25th and Clipper streets. If built, the Noe Valley YMCA would be in addition to and not a replacement for the Mission Y's existing facility at 4080 Mission St.

"The Mission YMCA serves a huge area," explains Andy Scott, executive director of the Mission YMCA, one of 13 branches of the YMCA of San Francisco. The Mission Y spans more than a dozen neighborhoods and represents about 30 percent of the population, he says. It not only covers Noe Valley, the Castro, Glen Park, and the entire Mission District; but Bernal Heights, Potrero Hill, the Excelsior, and Visitacion Valley. "Right now, we're not able to adequately serve that population."

But why Noe Valley?

Three years ago, the YMCA commissioned a survey of residents in the Mission service area. The Winfield Group polled 829 people as to their level of interest in a new, full-service YMCA. Survey participants were also asked to rate four potential locations for the new Y: Noe and Clipper in Noe Valley, Mission and Silver in the Excelsior, Mission and 22nd in the Mission, and Third and Evans in the Bayview District.

According to the survey, Noe Valley was the overwhelming favorite among the four sites. What's more, Noe Valley residents expressed double the level of interest of other respondents.

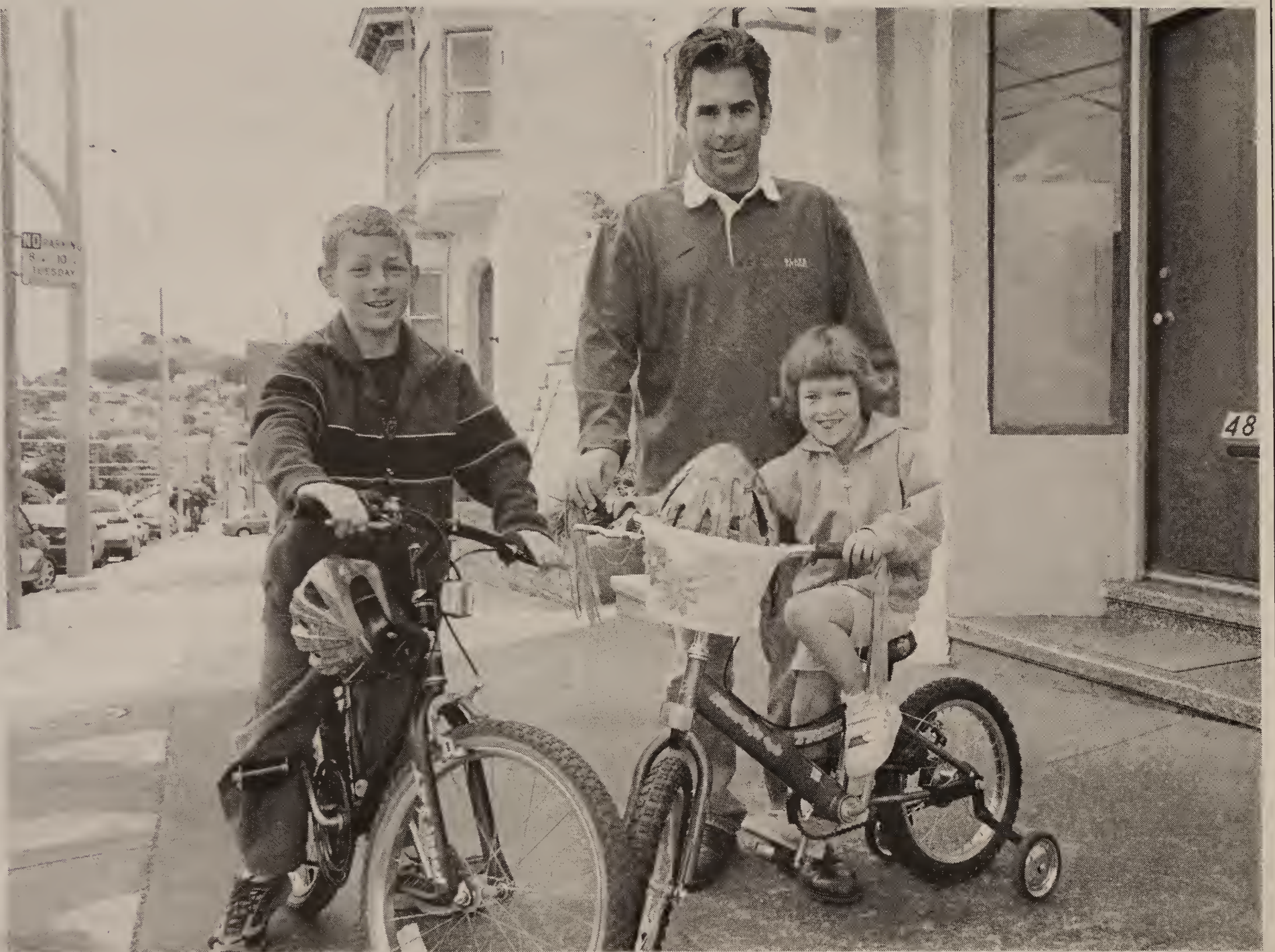
The Winfield Group also concluded that Noe Valley residents would be able to pay for programs at a rate that would subsidize programs for needier neighborhoods in the Mission service area. The YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association), the largest nonprofit organization in the Bay Area, has long espoused a tradition of community service.

Building Would Have Pool, Parking

Judy Martens, director of senior services for the Mission YMCA, unveiled the Y's plans at the May meeting of Friends of Noe Valley. Martens, a Friend and Noe Valley resident herself, passed out a map of the Mission service area and a two-page document describing the proposal.

The Noe Valley YMCA, as currently envisioned, she said, would feature a fit-

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Father's Day Reminder: Nothing beats a couple of bikes, a sunny afternoon, and shootin' the breeze with the Old Man. Here, Luc and Clara Hancock stop for air at 30th and Noe with their dad, Tom. *Photo by Pamela Gerard*

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Tip: Always apply skin care with upwards strokes. We never want to pull down on our faces, why help nasty father time? Also, use only your ring fingers for eye cream application. Start from the outside and work in under the eye. This finger is the weakest and will not pull.

Advice: Let's face it luv, the older we get -- the higher the maintenance. Pevonia, a botanical skin care line is a great weapon against all the "fun stuff" that comes with aging skin. From spot treatment (yes, we still get pimples) to bust cream (oolala).

Inner Health: Positive affirmations!! The Danu family is working on ours with help from our company coach June Ahern. And I gotta tell ya -- life is good. Choose an affirmation and write it down once a day as well as saying it as many times as you can during the day. Example "I am beautiful" or "I am surrounded by supportive and loving people". Think about what needs attention in your life and / or what you would like to change, and watch the magic begin!

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Ponder of the Month:

Far better is it to reach for greatness even though checkered by failure than to dwell in that perpetual twilight that knows not victory or defeat.

T. Roosevelt
Right on man!

We hope to see you soon.
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LETTERS 33¢

Problems Extend Beyond School Walls

Editor:

I am stunned by the blasé response to the attempted teacher poisoning at James Lick Middle School reported in your last issue ["James Lick School Takes Another Hit," May 2000 *Voice*].

With the exception of two parents who suggested "zero tolerance" of student "pranks" in the future, everyone who was quoted shrugged off the crime as an "isolated incident" or an "aberration" or a "lack of understanding of substances." The tired standby of blaming it on a movie (or TV or rock music) was even trotted out.

More incredible, and worrisome, was that the school's principal, Mr. Eddings, diverted attention from the seriousness of the situation by offering unsubstantiated statistics such as "98 percent of our kids are doing what's right 99 percent of the time." The staff of Columbine High probably comforted themselves with such pabulum, too, before real tragedy struck.

Well, as a longtime Noe Valley resident who lives within view of James Lick's front door, and who regularly rides the 24-Divisadero bus when James Lick students are going to school and returning home, I've got news for Mr. Eddings and his staff: My personal observations reveal that around 50 percent of your students are foul-mouthed juvenile delinquents. (I admit that my statistics are about as scientifically verifiable as Mr. Eddings'.)

What to do? Since the students are once again concerned about their image in the neighborhood, and since the school administrators seem content to brush this incident under the rug and "move on," here's a simple list of things the students can do to improve their standing in Noe Valley:

1. Stop defacing/damaging public and private property on your way to and from school.
2. Stop urinating in public.
3. Challenge yourself to put together at least one complete sentence every day without using the f-, m-f-, or n-word.
4. Stop turning the 24-Divisadero bus into a hell-on-wheels for other riders.
5. Do not ask for donations for supplies or overseas trips until you start acting like responsible citizens.

A final note to Mr. Eddings: I don't think a week has gone by in the past year without a police cruiser, with lights flashing, double-parked in front of James Lick. When this stops, I'll be more inclined to accept your statistics. In the meantime, I suggest you focus hard on the 2 percent of students who aren't doing what's right.

Charles Handy
Via email

Sensitive Reporting About James Lick

Editor:

James Lick makes the front page again! First the *Chronicle* and now the *Voice*. Wow! This school gets a lot of media attention. It must have something special. Could it be the school's hardworking, dedicated teachers and administrators, or its diverse and eclectic student body? No, it's the shoplifting and poisoning events that draw James Lick into the limelight. My, my, that's a positive educational outlook. Sadly, that's what hooks readers.

But these incidents are not confined to James Lick. Unfortunate situations are happening in all our public and private schools. If you think not, you've got your head in the sand.

Still, our adolescents need to hear and read some encouraging, uplifting news about them! Good things *are* happening at James Lick.

My thanks go to Heidi Anderson for her respectful reporting. She sensitively han-

dled the students' insights and feelings about what happened to *all* of them and what they learned from this serious situation. And isn't that what it's all about—learning?

G. Henderson
Via email

Zero Tolerance for Lack of Leadership

Editor:

This is in response to your recent article on James Lick Middle School.

Countless times, I have had students attempt to kick my dog, throw objects at us, and shout various obscenities while I was walking down the street. I've tried discussing this with teachers, as well as with the assistant principal. Rather than accepting their role as mentors and telling the students that violence and abuse are *not* acceptable in *any* form—the school staff reprimanded me for owning a dog and living in the neighborhood. The assistant principal stated that "in defense of the kids, many of them, as well as our P.E. teacher, have complained about stepping in dog feces, so I can understand why they're acting out." When I asked how that could possibly provide a rationale for the students' acting out with verbal and physical assaults, I was told that that *was* the rationale and that I should walk my dog elsewhere.

Being a responsible pet owner and taxpayer, who pays to live in Noe Valley and who provides money to support our children's education, I am a bit perplexed by this. Perhaps the assistant principal would provide a rationale for the debris and bro-

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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and manuscripts, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned manuscripts will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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Mission Dreams of Building a Noe Valley YMCA

Continued from Page 1

ness center with an aerobics studio, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a gymnasium, an indoor children's playground, a teen recreation center, and a mix of health and recreation programs for all ages, from toddlers to seniors. To satisfy the wishes of the survey respondents, it might also have a sauna, racquetball courts, and studios for dance, yoga, and martial arts. As for the students and staff at James Lick, they would have subsidized access to the facility throughout the school day, Martens said.

According to her document, the new building would require some 40,000 to 50,000 square feet and would cost anywhere from \$10 to \$18 million. It would be no taller than 40 feet — the current height limit for construction in the area — and it would likely include a two-level, underground parking garage. "Parking would be an absolutely critical component," the handout states.

Martens admitted that the Mission YMCA is eager to expand its facilities. "We've been in the same building on Mission and Alemany since 1953, and we're busting at the seams," she said. (The current facility is roughly 11,000 square feet, and houses a senior center, a preschool, and studio space for youth dance programs.) But she assured the Friends that the Noe Valley YMCA was a long ways from reality. "This is a five-year process," Martens said, "and we can't do it without the community."

She added that the Y's next step after seeking neighborhood support would be to develop a fundraising strategy.

Martens' audience at the meeting asked lots of questions and showed polite interest in a Noe Valley Y.

But Friends member Claire Pilcher later expressed some reservations. "Many of the questions we had went unanswered," she said. "What about traffic congestion? How do they plan to buy the property from the school district?"

A Hub for the Community

Scott responds that the project is still in the exploratory stages. The Y has floated the plan at James Lick, but has not yet entered into any formal negotiations with the school district.

However, he notes, the school district

has allowed school property to be used for such purposes in the past. He cited a youth center on the grounds of the San Francisco Community School operated by the Boys and Girls Club of San Francisco.

And, he points out, the Mission YMCA is currently running an after-school recreation program at James Lick, so it already has a big stake in the school.

But in his view, a YMCA is more than just buildings. "It's a community," he says. "Some of the best Y's are those without walls. It could be that we only expand the existing programs. If that's what the community decides, that's what it'll be."

Nevertheless, he hopes that local residents will give the Noe Valley Y proposal their serious consideration. "This proposed building could act as a hub."

What Will the Neighbors Think?

Closest to this hub would be the students of James Lick. The school at 1220 Noe St. now has a spacious gymnasium, locker rooms, and two large paved yards. The upper yard contains a painted-on running track and several basketball hoops.

Would the school be willing to trade that playground space for a Y with a pool?

"I'm not sold on the idea completely. The student body has to get something major out of it," says James Lick PTSA President Laurel Turner. "If only 30 students got free swimming lessons, then that would not be enough."

Turner also has concerns about traffic and safety. "We need to think about the danger of mixing cars exiting the garage with kids coming and going from school."

And she knows how valuable the yard is to Noe Valley residents. "Every 5-year-old in the neighborhood learns to ride a bike in that yard," Turner says.

Even if James Lick negotiates a satisfactory deal with the Y, she adds, it won't be a deal until the surrounding neighbors are happy. "We certainly don't want the neighbors to get upset with the school."

Meanwhile, YMCA director Scott says he welcomes questions and concerns from Noe Valley residents.

"I want the angry phone calls!" he claims. "Phoning me would be great, because to me, the minute I pick up that phone, the caller becomes part of the solution." □

You can reach Mission YMCA Executive Director Andy Scott at 586-6900.



REAL ESTATE

Recent Sales Activity In Noe Valley

By Shari Malone, Zephyr Real Estate

Lately there have been many articles in newspapers and a great deal of discussion regarding a slow down in the real estate market. There has been some slow down, but only slight.

The modest "slow down" can be attributed to the following: (1) An increase in the inventory of homes. (2) A decrease in many people's stock portfolios from the year's high. (3) An increase in interest rates.

Don't look for any significant decrease in values — there are still more buyers than there is inventory, and the stock market is relatively close to the value it had in the beginning of the year. Some people feel it is time to diversify — and are taking money out of the stock market to place in the real estate market.

Continue to expect multiple offers on the best properties and selling prices in excess of the list price.

Not all properties are receiving the same kind of attention as the "best" properties. If you are a buyer, you may want to pursue a property that not everyone else is chasing. This may be an opportunity for you to make an offer on a property without competition. That usually means, however that the property has some problem to be solved (like a

protected tenant, low rents, or deferred maintenance). If you are willing to take on a problem and be creative, the monetary gain can be excellent.

If you are a seller, you want your property to be one of the "best" on the market — you want the competition to drive the price up. It often takes some work and planning. Fixing the deferred maintenance problems, decreasing the amount of furniture, de-cluttering, cleaning, landscaping and staging can mean a huge increase in your property value. \$10,000 invested wisely could return four times that amount to you.

I would be delighted to discuss maximizing your opportunity, whether you are buying or selling in this challenging market.

We all seem to enjoy seeing the latest selling statistics. The following is a list of single family homes in Noe Valley that sold over \$1,000,000 in the first quarter of this year.

The properties that sell above list price are not limited to the expensive homes. Many modest properties have had equally impressive statistics. Buyers have to learn to ignore the list price, and educate themselves well enough on their options so that they can evaluate what the property is worth to them (which could be lower than the list price).

Address	Listed	Sold	% above list
780 27th	\$699,000	\$1,015,000	31%
1229 Noe	998,000	1,015,000	2%
846 Sanchez	995,000	1,025,000	3%
4328 20th	849,000	1,030,000	18%
549 Jersey	819,000	1,315,000	38%
112 Liberty	799,500	1,080,000	26%
4222 22nd	829,000	1,125,000	26%
14 Grand View	899,000	1,126,000	20%
1137 Diamond	849,000	1,260,000	33%
888 Douglass	895,000	1,289,000	31%

Shari Malone has represented buyers and sellers of real estate for over 25 years. She is in the top 1/2 of 1% of Realtors, nationwide. If you have questions, she invites your call or email. 415-695-0552 x135 or ShariMalone@Zephyr-re.com

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LETTERS 33¢

Continued from Page 4

ken glass I see all over the sidewalk and grounds of the school. Should we apply her reasoning to the kids who litter too?

At the public school I went to, the teachers not only spoke of zero tolerance, they actually enforced it. Funny, it seemed to work, too; we never had a case of teachers being poisoned, etc. Oh, we did have one similarity to James Lick: we had a shortage of money for education. However, the teachers still managed to provide discipline and leadership. And guess what? The community fully embraced and respected the school in return.

We need to look into the real underlying reason the school has experienced behavioral problems. Zero tolerance? I have yet to see that in action. I think we, as a community, need to have zero tolerance for the lack of leadership teachers are providing their students.

I'm sure there *are* outstanding teachers within James Lick and I'm hoping that they will someday make up the majority. I look forward to the day when we can be proud of James Lick being part of our community and when the neighbors will no longer prefer to send their children to schools outside the neighborhood.

Mary Rutherford

Via email

Clarification of Shelter Letter

Editor:

In my letter to the editor, which you posted in the May issue of the *Noe Valley Voice*, I wrote that "Smear tactics are an easy, undemocratic way to quiet the voice of reason...."

I feel that you were guilty of that by putting the word "gay" before shelter in the first line—making it seem that the fact that the shelter was for gay youth mattered to me. In fact, it does not. I only care that the budget is way out of line for the number of people served, or, looking at it from a different point of view, the clientele are not receiving anywhere near the services that they should for the money.

I also object to the heading stating that the money could be better spent elsewhere. That, also, is not the point. I do not feel that there are more deserving homeless (though there are homeless at greater risk—elderly or children), just that more people should be taken care of for that amount of money. My point was that I believe the money is being funneled to the caregivers, not the homeless.

Rachel Callaghan

Via email

Parking Rage on Alvarado

Editor:

I have lived in Noe Valley for four years, and have no off-street parking. The parking situation has gotten worse and worse, and now it seems as though there are vigilante groups about.

On Friday, May 5, I parked on Alvarado Street in a somewhat generous space between two driveways. I got out of the car, examined the space behind me, and thought that there was no room for another car in back of me. There was a huge Sportster in the driveway in front of me, so I allowed for about a foot of space between my car and their driveway.

On Saturday morning, when I got to my car, I found a Federal Priority Mail address sticker pasted to my window, completely blocking my view. I had to go buy a scraper to scrape it off in order to drive. I also found a flyer from the "Alvarado Community Group" asking me to park with more sensitivity to space for others.

The flyer I don't mind, but the sticker is vandalism, and a federal offense. I am

turning over the sticker to the Post Office. What's next? Slashed tires?

We have an awful parking situation in our neighborhood. People who work on 24th Street park in our neighborhood. When the Noe Valley Ministry has an event, forget parking within five blocks of Sanchez. We need residential parking stickers, not vigilante groups who vandalize cars.

Linda Saytes

Noe Street

More Broken Glass on Clipper Street

Editor:

I have just returned from spending one hour and 40 minutes on Clipper Street in front of my house helping to deal with a car accident. At approximately 8:40 p.m. (on May 8), my partner and I heard a loud bang, followed by a car horn. As he dialed 911, I went out to see if I could help.

I saw my neighbor across the street on her phone, also calling 911. In the ensuing minutes, as 30 to 40 other people from the neighborhood joined us outside, and as those involved in the crash were taken out of the street and the one car remaining in the street pushed to the side, traffic continued to pour down Clipper, speeding through broken glass and car parts. The fact that there were scores of people lining the sidewalk, and that the street was littered with debris from an accident, did nothing to slow the multitude of cars racing down the street.

In the one hour (yes, one full hour) that we waited for the police to arrive, we were witness to the kind of behavior that goes on day and night along our 500 block of Clipper Street. No one was surprised that there had been an accident. For years, we have been begging for enforcement of the existing 25-mph speed limit. We've also asked for installation of speed bumps, and a rerouting of through-traffic away from this narrow residential street.

It is truly pathetic that the powers that be in the City and County of San Francisco care so little for the safety and well-being of their citizens that they allow such dangerous conditions to go unchecked.

I have written numerous letters to Mayor Brown, Supervisor Leno, and others, but still nothing has been done. I wonder how many people have to be killed or injured before the danger that is Clipper Street finally receives some attention from City Hall.

Bruce Clark

Still alive (for the moment)

Via email



Voice Mail

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send email to jaxvoice@aol.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) You can also send mail via our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com. The site has our news features, Class Ads, and archives dating from 1996.

Wind in the Willows Moves to Sunnyside

Continued from Page 1

Today, Maddy, 23, is a graduate of Yale University and helping to run a food bank in New York City.

"I'll tell you what I valued about Wind in the Willows," declares Marybeth Wallace, whose 9-, 16-, and 20-year-old all attended the preschool. "There was a sense of community. We would all walk our kids to school. A lot of us were stay-at-home moms, and I learned how to be an organizer at that school. Now I'm an advocate for children," says Wallace, who works for Coleman Advocates for Youth. "Wind in the Willows was my first experience in learning how to be an advocate for my child."

Familiar Strangers, Unknown Friends

When the teachers and children leave Noe Valley, there is much that they will miss. Each Halloween, the school's little pirates and princesses marched down Church Street to show off their costumes to all the residents and merchants waiting with bowls full of candy.

"On our route, there were always certain stops—the Fire Station, Eric's, Mia's Flowers, Sue Levinson's State Farm Insurance—you had to be careful to stop at all of them or feelings would be hurt," O'Connor wistfully relates. "And of course, the Chinese Dragon Parade! We have a dragon made of a box and a red flowing cape. The children danced down Church Street with tambourines, bells, cymbals, and made lots of noise, while waving to people on the J-Church."



Class of 2000: The sounds of children's laughter at the corner of Cesar Chavez and Church is fading into memory. A recent victim of Noe Valley's affluenza is Wind in the Willows, whose tots and teachers will soon flee to less upscale pastures. *Photo by Pamela Gerard*

But what O'Connor will miss most is the people of Noe Valley. She thinks of the man who walks by the school at the same time each day and waves. "He suffered a stroke and now walks with a cane, but every day he always peeks in to see who is painting at the easel. I don't know

his name, but we chat about his grandchildren."

So Long to 'Stroller Valley'

What happens to the soul of a neighborhood when the preschools are priced out, replaced by sushi bars and town-

houses? "So many families live in Noe Valley that it's called 'Stroller Valley,'" says Wind in the Willows board president Tamra Marshall. "But if all the preschools have to leave, where will the children go?"

"There will be a little more sameness, a little less diversity in Noe Valley," says Russell-Shapiro.

Teacher Terri Barrel grew teary-eyed when she thought about the bulldozers plowing down the sandbox and playground. "My husband, John, built that sandbox. That lovely Victorian boxwood tree where the birds come—it's going to go. It's been here forever. It's such a sign of the times."

Indeed, the soul of a neighborhood changes building by building, not block by block, almost imperceptibly. Will anyone miss the sounds of children wafting over the fence, or the exchange of smiles between a child painting and a gentleman walking by? Perhaps these small losses will occur without remark, but in some ineffable way, the heart of Noe Valley will be forever different. □

Wendy Hanamura is a producer/reporter at KQED-TV and a parent whose 4-year-old son, Kenny, attends Wind in the Willows. She says the school still has openings in its afternoon program this fall and could use a hand with its remodeling efforts at 711 Monterey Blvd. For information, call 415-285-5510. Also, donations, no matter how small, can be sent to the Wind in the Willows Renovation Fund, 1444 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94131.



Vince Harrison (left) and David Hart forged their friendship at Wind in the Willows. Their play structure is slated to be demolished to make room for condominiums. *Photo by Pamela Gerard*



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Customers Flock To 'Uncle' Chuck's Corner Store

Continued from Page 1

be proud of his achievement. His daughter is graduating from college, and his eldest son is completing his third year of college this year.

Asked about the changes he's seen in Noe Valley over the past 20 years, Chuck says, "What I notice are the changes in the people. I meet them as children, and they grow up and have children of their own."

One customer who used to bring her nephews to the store began calling him Uncle Chuckles about 15 years ago. The boys, now grown, still call him that. Other friends and customers shortened it to Uncle Chuck. "I like it," he says. "It's fun, but respectful."

Many of Chuck's customers play the California State Lottery. There is a Quick Pick setup at the front door, and inside he has every kind of scratch card you can imagine. I asked him if he'd received anything when people had won.

"There have been some big winners at this store," he said, "but only the top winnings pay. A customer won \$26,000 in the Fantasy, and I got a half of a percent or around \$130. If someone were to win the Lotto, I could get \$5,000 per million."

Let's try to do it for him, gang.

Despite the Dangers

In the past, there have been robberies at gunpoint. There have also been three or four break-ins. But despite the dangers of operating a corner store late at night, and the long hours standing behind the



Sun Valley Dairy's Chuck Rafidi recently celebrated 21 years behind the counter at his popular grocery at 28th and Church streets.

Photo by Charles Kennard

counter, Chuck likes his business and enjoys helping others. "That's why I do it."

So the next time you're in the neighborhood, drop by and see him. (He has four years left on a five-year lease, so he should be here for a while.)

"Chuck is the best neighbor in the whole wide world," says Trudee Gardner of Key Kraft, in the next block of Church.

That about sums it up for all of us. □



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NOE BUYS / NOE RENTS

Summer Fog May Cool Off Housing Market

Here are the latest figures on house sales and apartment rentals, supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate on 24th Street and Rent Tech Rentals. (Note that these sales occurred in April 2000 and that the rental data covers apartments rented January through March 2000. In both surveys, "Noe Valley" is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets.) The numbers show that Noe Valley homes were still selling for 10 to 27 percent over asking price this spring. However, Zephyr manager Randall Kostick expects that we will see prices cool down slightly over the summer. "A lot of properties are coming on the market, and we have the same number of buyers. We may even go back down below the million-dollar mark," he said.

—Sally Smith, Editor

Noe Valley House Sales—April 2000*

Total Sales	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Average Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
<i>Single-family homes</i>					
13	450,000	1,260,000	828,384	18	127%
<i>Condominiums</i>					
3	727,000	855,000	777,333	22	110%
<i>2 to 4 unit buildings</i>					
6	600,000	1,600,000	1,106,833	25	124%
<i>5+ unit buildings</i>					
0	—	—	—	—	—

Noe Valley Rentals—First Quarter 2000**

Apartment Size	Average Rents Today (Jan – Mar 2000)	Rents 4 Years Ago (Jan – Mar 1996)	% Units Available for Rent in Noe Valley
<i>Studio</i>	\$ 1,115 / mo.	\$ 675 / mo.	9%
<i>1 bedroom</i>	1,625 / mo.	990 / mo.	25%
<i>2 bedrooms</i>	2,400 / mo.	1,375 / mo.	40%
<i>3 or more bedrooms</i>	2,850 / mo.	2,110 / mo.	25%

*Information provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* courtesy of Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr-re.com) and based on Noe Valley home sales recorded April 1–30, 2000.

**Data based on Noe Valley rentals listed by Rent Tech Rentals and Roommates (www.renttech.com) for January through March 2000, and for the same period in 1996.

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VALLEY VIEWS

Monster Turnout Triumphs Over Monster Home

By Jeannene Przyblyski

Since my essay on "monster homes" appeared in the April issue of the *Noe Valley Voice*, numerous neighbors and neighborhood associations have contacted me to compare notes and share information. I have some good news: it took endless days of strategy meetings and telephone calls, five hours of waiting around at City Hall, and an emergency pizza delivery, but at 10 p.m. on May 11, the San Francisco Planning Commission voted 6 to 1 to require the builder to reduce the height and bulk of an oversize project on our block of Collingwood Street.

Unfortunately, the thrill of victory has been short-lived. Our street faces three more pending projects in a two-block radius. And the word from the city planners on the front lines is not good. Many of them admit that the projects they administer are out of scale with the neighborhood. Still, they claim that their concerns are overruled when the projects are kicked upstairs in a pro-development administration. The neighborhoods currently have little choice but to take projects, one by one, before the Planning Commission for "discretionary review." Here are some points to consider when making your case:

Neighborhood turnout is key. In political lingo, it's called "GOTV": Get

out the vote. It is much easier for the commission to say "no" to one person than to 50. We mounted an email, telephone, and flyer campaign to motivate neighbors to turn out for their community. At one point in our presentation, we asked those members of the audience who supported our petition to stand. As the commission members looked on in amazement, every person in the room except the developer, his attorney, and his architect came to their feet. There is strength in numbers.

Use your neighborhood talent. Does someone have photography or drafting experience? Have they served on a board that has addressed planning issues? Any real estate agents, architects, contractors, or public relations people? You don't need expensive lawyers and lobbyists to take a case before the Planning Commission, but you do need some expertise in defining your issues, designing a presentation, and mobilizing support. Pooling talent helps to avoid feeling intimidated by deep pockets and hired guns.

Balance emotion with reason. Everyone's home is their castle, and it is easy to get upset or lose focus when it is threatened. The emotions to take to a Planning Commission meeting should include firmness of resolve and love of your neighborhood, not anger against developers. Temper these emotions with the facts that define your neighborhood's character. What is the average square footage of the buildings on your street? The average number of stories per building? Are there any special considerations? A narrow street? A steep grade? A school nearby?

Most streets in Noe Valley are defined by their mixed architectural styles — Victorian, Edwardian, Mediterranean, modern. But this mix of styles and mod-

est scale does not mean our blocks lack character (as developers will argue). Instead, this mix maintains affordable housing stock and allows our neighborhood to renew itself by welcoming young families and newcomers to the city. Make sure the commission understands the issues affecting your community.

Build a discretionary review presentation piece by piece. The DR petitioner has only five minutes to make a case, but any number of people can speak for three minutes in support. Use those three-minute segments to address critical issues reinforcing the main arguments of the petitioner. Avoid needless repetition and grandstanding. But don't hesitate to ask more than one speaker to emphasize a main point or key demand.

Lobby the Planning Commission, not the Planning Department. It was clear from our discretionary review that the current director of the Planning Department is willing to give builders and developers every latitude in interpreting the building code and the Residential Design Guidelines (Prop. M). If you are lobbying against a monster home, you might want to skip his office. Instead, review past minutes of Planning Commission meetings (online at www.ci.sf.ca.us/planning/cpcindex.htm) and identify cases similar to yours. How did each commissioner vote? Which ones are most likely to be sympathetic to your situation? Make sure these people have advance knowledge of your case.

It ain't over till it's over. Even if you are successful in your petition for discretionary review, you must follow through to ensure that the directives of the commission are fulfilled in both letter and spirit. If you lose, you still have the option to go before the Board of Permit Appeals and to Superior Court if necessary.

Finally, planning issues are political issues. The Planning Commission is appointed by the mayor, and serves at his or her discretion. The mayor and Board of Supervisors serve at *our* discretion. With district elections approaching, we might expect to see neighborhood power increase relative to that of developers, their campaign contributions, and "soft money." No matter who is elected from District 8 in November, he or she should be required to ensure that our neighborhood planning and development concerns will be addressed at City Hall.

Jeannene Przyblyski and her neighbors have formed the Collingwood Hill Neighborhood Association. To reach her, email jprzy@pacbell.net. Meanwhile, the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the "monster homes" issue on Tuesday, June 6, at 10 a.m.



VALLEY VIEWS

The *Noe Valley Voice* invites you to express your fervent opinions on issues affecting the neighborhood. Mail manuscripts, which should be no more than 1,000 words, to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or email jaxvoice@aol.com. Include your name, address, and phone number, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like your manuscript returned. Thank you.



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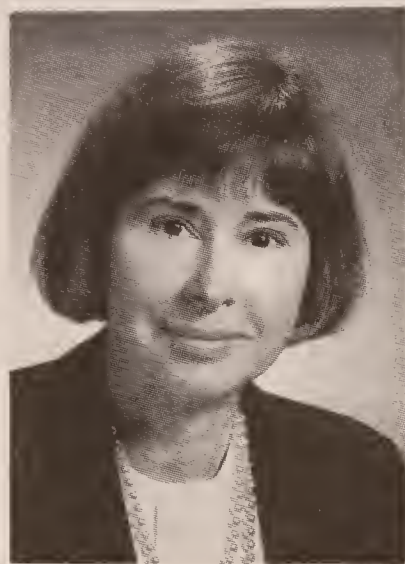
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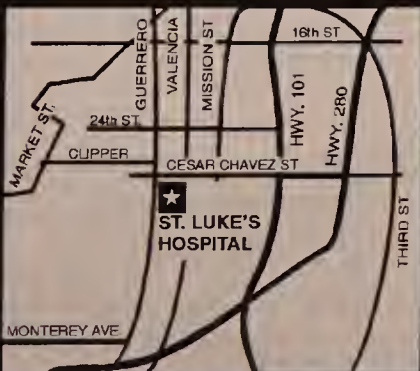
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POLICE BEAT

Watch Out for Summertime Scams

By Officer Lois Perillo

It's that time of year again.

A 70-year-old woman was targeted in a scam by a 35-year-old man, who took thousands of dollars from her in exchange for (ineffectively) weeding and sealing her driveway.

The suspect, who said his name was Steve Costello, first approached the woman at her 26th Street home during the afternoon of Saturday, May 13. He was accompanied by two men and drove a gray Toyota pickup truck with no front plate and a possible dent on the right side.

Costello told the woman he had repaired her roof several years ago (not true). Then he left with the two men and returned with tools so they could work on her driveway. At one point, Costello entered the woman's house through her basement in what the woman described as an attempt to "case the place."

She told him to leave the house, and he did. A short time later, however, he demanded payment in cash. She paid him with some money and the balance in a check, which unfortunately cleared before she realized she had been scammed.

Kudos to the woman for reporting this crime so that others may benefit from her mistake.

I'm sure the pros have a quick answer for why the number of scams increases during the spring. Perhaps it's the warm weather. People spend more time outside, taking stock of their homes and looking for ways to improve them.

But some credit must be due the con artist. As many of you know from painful experience, one of the slickest talkers around town is Joseph "Jim" Lawrence. Lawrence not only conned his targets by asking them to donate to his daughter's athletic team, he burgled them, too.

Well, Police Inspector Mark Sullivan recently called to notify me that Lawrence is free, after spending four months of a one-year sentence in county jail. Be alert for his knock on your door.

UPS Would Never Hire This Guy

Meanwhile, another familiar face may appear at your home or business. This one belongs to a phony UPS driver, who lives nearby and was locked out of his house. He frequently wears a brown UPS shirt under a jacket. He will tell you that he just needs \$12.50 to take the train to his Peninsula work site, where he keeps money in his locker. Of course, he will pay you back, especially since most of you will give him a \$20 bill and some of you will let him in your home to use the phone. This suspect was active throughout the city about three years ago, and has recently revived his scam.

Talk to each other, your family, friends, neighbors, and especially any elders in your life, about the possibility of scams. NEVER accept the so-called bargain of a so-called contractor who calls on you uninvited at home. ALWAYS get a second bid from someone you call and who comes to you via a recommendation. KNOW anyone you allow into your home.

When appropriate, check the identification of any workers at your home and write down their names and associated license numbers. This especially includes those claiming to be from utility companies. NEVER allow a so-called utility

worker (gas, electric, phone, cable, etc.) into your home without checking his or her uniform, i.d., and vehicle.

Although most of us do this by second nature, it bears repeating in light of our tightly packed daily lives.

Your Identity's in the Mail

Another easy target of thieves may be your mailbox, especially if it's unsecured.

Officer Lorraine Lombardo recently took the report of a mailbox theft and fraud from a woman who lives on the 1100 block of Sanchez Street. Upon her return from a trip, the woman found a Sprint bill in her mailbox. Although the bill was in her name, it did not belong to her. Subsequently, she received a Radio Shack bill not belonging to her, and a credit card that she did not order. When her current credit card bill failed to arrive, the woman contacted the credit card company and found that her credit limit had been reached.

Officer Lombardo advised her to tell the Post Office to hold her mail until her mailbox was secured and to notify her neighbors to do the same. Additionally, she should arrange to pick up her checks and statements directly from her bank, and report the identity theft to Social Security and to the three major credit reporting bureaus:

Equifax	800-685-1111
Trans Union	800-888-4213
Experian (TRW)	800-422-4879

Also, absent any i.d. theft, it's a wise practice to annually check your credit by requesting a copy of the report.

A Case of Bank Fraud

A 31-year-old man who attempted to open an account at Washington Mutual Bank using stolen identification on April 12 was thwarted by the 21-year-old worker who spotted the fraud and notified police. The suspect was in possession of i.d. and checks stolen from a 42-year-old Hayward man.

Officers Rosemary Castro and Manuel Solano responded and arrested the suspect, who was charged with six felonies, including burglary, theft of an access card, check theft, check forgery, and narcotics possession. He was held at county jail for six days, then released upon his promise to appear. However, when he missed his May 12 court date, the judge issued a \$50,000 warrant for his arrest.

Hair Rage at Supercuts

On Tuesday, April 18, at about 5:30 p.m., many of you may have witnessed a fight in front of Supercuts on 24th Street. It began with an over-ring and ended with two men receiving citations for battery.

When a male customer purchased four items from the hair salon but was rung up for five, he became angry at the procedure used to correct the over-ring and exchanged insulting words with the staff before leaving the store with his purchase. Apparently, he then told his partner outside about the incident, and the partner entered the store to procure an apology. When the staff directed him to leave, the second man swept his arms over several display shelves, causing the products to be strewn on the floor (with some of their contents spilled on the rug). He then ran from the store with a worker in pursuit.

Intending to hold the man until police arrived, the worker took hold of the suspect's pullover, but was struck numerous times, sustaining injuries to his forehead, lip, elbow, and leg, from blows issued by both partners. The worker fought back until a second store worker and another customer separated the three men. The two partners then left the scene, walking east on 24th Street, with the worker following close behind. At this point, one of the pair allegedly grabbed a large rock and threatened the worker.

I was alerted to the incident by a passerby after the three men headed down

24th Street. I broadcast their description, and Officer Lorraine Lombardo contacted them at 24th and Vicksburg. Four more officers came to her assistance, and all parties were taken to Mission Station, where statements were written and the story unraveled.

The dissatisfied customer was cited to appear on a battery charge, while his partner was cited to appear on malicious mischief and battery. Both men were released upon promises to appear in court June 7.

Listen to the Judge

A 49-year-old man was arrested at 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, after he violated a restraining order by entering his former wife's house on the 900 block of Diamond Street. Officers Martha Juarez and Elena Teper arrested the man and booked him at Mission Station. He was transferred to county jail, and released the next day, pending his court date.

Party to an Arrest

When a noise complaint of a loud party drew police to the 1200 block of Castro Street at 2 a.m. on Monday, April 17, Officers Glenn Ortega and Sanford Taylor were confronted by a 26-year-old man covered in blood, who refused medical evaluation and the officers' entry to check on the well-being of those within the apartment. After he engaged in a physical struggle with another 26-year-old man, police arrested him, along with the second man, who also delayed the officers in performing their duties. Upon being put into the patrol car for transport to the station, the first man kicked at the window, spat through the wire-mesh divider onto the computer in the front seat, and threatened to kill Officer Ortega upon his release.

The first suspect was charged with two felonies, obstructing an officer in his duties and threatening harm, and two mis-

demeanors, resisting arrest and malicious mischief. The district attorney rebooked on all charges, and the suspect was held eight hours in jail until he posted bond. To date, he has made two court appearances. The second suspect was routed to county jail and released when the district attorney withdrew the complaint against him.

Hold On to That Wallet

On Saturday, April 1, at 11 p.m., a 21-year-old man was arrested on 24th Street after he and another man stole a wallet from a woman's purse while she played pool inside Kennedy's Bar at 25th and Church streets.

Although one suspect fled before police arrived, Officers Jose Lopez and Thomas Johnson arrested the second suspect, who led police to his partner's vehicle where the woman's wallet was found.

Officers recovered the wallet, towed the vehicle, and booked the suspect on felony conspiracy (since he allegedly acted with another), misdemeanor theft (as the woman was not near her wallet at the time of the theft), and an outstanding felony narcotics warrant. The district attorney declined to file charges at this time.

Ouch! Scratch Graffiti Is Back

Businesses on 24th Street were targeted by a scratch graffiti vandal who used a pointed tool to carve letters into several large pane-glass windows sometime during the night of Thursday, April 20. The scratcher is still at large.

Where Are They Now?

Larry Kraft, the man known as "the Termite" because of his method of burglarizing businesses, was sentenced May 3 to 16 months in state prison, with 92 days credit for time served. He will again

Continued on Next Page

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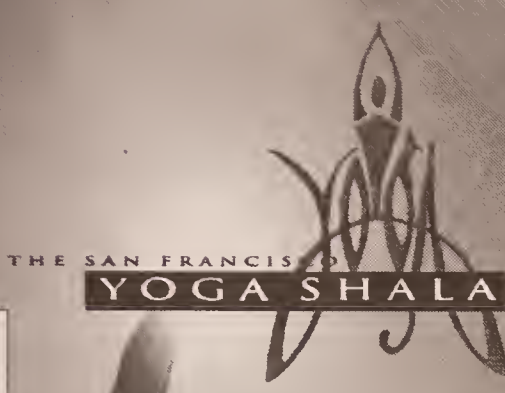
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POLICE BEAT

Continued from Previous Page

be on parole for burglary—what else?—upon his release.

Kraft's most recent arrest came in February of this year when the owner of Peasant Pies captured him red-handed, carrying the store's cash register away.

Michael Jaro, who initially called himself Francisco Strap upon his arrest in December 1999 for burglary of a house on the 1000 block of Dolores, was sentenced

May 25 to six years in state prison for burglary, plus two years for possession of stolen property, to run concurrently, with 171 days credit for time served.

His companion, Roberto Aquirre, got one year in county prison, with 171 days credit for time served and three years of probation.

As for the 31-year-old man charged with hit-and-run and reckless driving in December 1999 after he struck several parked vehicles at Church and 22nd streets, he was found guilty of reckless driving, a misdemeanor, which may be reduced to an infraction pending his driving behavior over the next six months.

Unsafe at Any Speed

When a 36-year-old woman in her car refused my order to exit the 24th and Castro bus zone and was cited on April 7 at 4:50 p.m., then backed up in the zone, with the bus alongside, backed around the intersection's corner without regard to pedestrians, and then ran the red light, I noted her license plate, wrote a reckless driving report, and called Inspector Jim Bosch of our Hit-and-Run division. After contacting the driver and interviewing her, Inspector Bosch explained that her actions subjected her to a misdemeanor charge and a date in court.

But in light of her later efforts to take responsibility for her actions, I have cited her for unsafe parking, an infraction, and left it at that. A wise officer once said, "You give a ticket or a lecture. Not both."

Let's continue to watch out for one another. I'll see you on patrol. □

San Francisco Police Officer Lois Perillo covers her Noe Valley beat—from Valencia to Grand View and 21st to Cesar Chavez—on foot and on bicycle. If you would like to discuss a crime or safety problem, call her at 558-5404, the community policing line at Mission Station.

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SHORT TAKES

Migden Speaks to Demo Club

Members of the Noe Valley Democratic Club will ask State Assemblywoman Carole Migden, the featured speaker at their June meeting, to ponder the state budget as well as the mystical ways of Governor Gray Davis.

"We'll also ask her about bringing BART to Noe Valley," says Club President Dave Monks. "[BART Director] Tom Radulovich is pushing hard in Sacramento to get an appropriation for a study of a 30th and Mission BART Station. And Carole is chair of the Appropriations Committee."

The local Demos also will present 25th Street resident Harry Stern with the club's first Award of Merit, "for his longtime commitment to the livability of our neighborhood and to a better Muni," Monks says.

He adds that the meeting—which will be held June 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.—is the club's official kickoff for the district elections season. Everybody is welcome, no matter what their political stripe. Call Monks at 821-4087 for more on the summer agenda.

Upper Noe Playground Bustles

Noe Valley kids looking for summer fun will find it at the Upper Noe Playground at Day and Sanchez streets. Children 1 to 5 can participate in adventure gardening, story time, arts and crafts, and gymnastics for the toddler set. Kids between 7 and 13 can work on becoming the next Barry Bonds by joining the Junior Giants team. And 9- to 14-year-olds will be able to refine their hoop-making abilities in the basketball league.

For kids 8 and older, Thursday is outing day, with trips planned to Great America, Santa Cruz, Raging Waters, and Marine World/Six Flags. And on Monday through Friday, the playground will distribute free summer lunches from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Most programs begin at 10 a.m., and some run as late as 6 p.m. For a full schedule, call Upper Noe at 695-5011, or drop by and pick up a flyer.

Summer Reading Is Magic

The San Francisco Public Library is sponsoring an activity that is fun, safe, and free for kids who may be at loose ends during the summer vacation. The library's Summer Reading Club is open to children 13 and younger, and gives them great reasons to pick up a book and go where it takes them, from fairytale kingdoms to outer space.

This year's theme is "Reading Is Magic!" so the program will be kicked off by magician Walt Anthony at the Main Library, on Saturday, June 3, at 2 p.m. An-

thony will blend magic and reading from the best-selling Harry Potter books in an interactive performance.

All 26 branches and the Children's Bookmobile will also take part in the Summer Reading Club, which runs June 3 through Aug. 5. Children 13 and under can enroll any time during that period and win prizes for reading for two, four, six, or eight hours. Books in any language count, and preschool kids can participate by being read to. The club gets help from "Kid Power," 10- to 16-year-old volunteers who assist the librarians in signing up the kids and recording their hours.

Prizes include books and tickets to events, museums, and exhibits. The branch libraries also offer activities and performers throughout the summer. The Noe Valley—Sally Brunn Library is located at 451 Jersey St., near Castro. For details on "Reading Is Magic!" or "Kid Power," call the branch at 695-5095.

Redesign Harvey Milk Plaza

Here's your chance to put your stamp on the city you love. The San Francisco Arts Commission and the Department of Public Works are teaming up with San Francisco Prize (a group of design professionals) to sponsor a competition for a redesign of the Harvey Milk Memorial Plaza, the space where Market, 17th, and Castro streets converge. The goal is to create a vibrant public space that has street furniture, public art, signage, and a memorial dedicated to the ideals of Harvey Milk, the city's first openly gay supervisor.

There is no funding yet for the project, but the organizers plan to raise funds after the competition, to implement one or more of the aspects of the winning designs. A community survey will be launched on June 19 in conjunction with Gay Pride Week (June 19–25), and posters will go up soliciting entries.

In July, an open meeting and walk-through will be held for the entrants and interested community members. Registration for entries will close on Aug. 11, and entries will be due on Aug. 31. Five designs will be chosen as winners and presented by the winning teams at a community meeting in November.

For information or an entry form, call Edgar Lopez, project manager at the Department of Public Works, at 554-5757.

Is Your Child a Star?

The children's theater program Kid Stock, Inc., will bring its summer day camp to our area for the first time in its eight-year history. The seven-week musical theater camp, called Summer Stock, usually takes place west of Twin Peaks. But this season, July 17 through Aug. 4, the San Francisco program will be held in the auditorium of Mission Dolores at 16th and Church streets. Kids in kindergarten through eighth grade can enroll in the camp, running Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Extended care is

Continued on Next Page

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These parasol-toting thespians—(l. to r.) J.R. Twomey, Dora Donovan, Rebécca Straznickers, and Jeremy Leung—honed their skills at Kid Stock, which is bringing its musical theater camp to Mission Dolores this summer.
Photo courtesy Helen Garvey

SHORT TAKES

Continued from Previous Page

also available.)

Since 1992, Kid Stock's creators and directors, the mother-daughter team Jane Anne Sullivan and Noel Donovan, have offered the program to 800 children each summer in four Bay Area counties. Together, they have written 18 musical productions, based on themes such as the building of the railroads, space travel, and the environment. All programs offer workshops in song, drama, art, and dance, and each camp ends with a performance for the families.

Kid Stock offers theater programs during the school year as well as in the summer. "Every year," says Sullivan, "with the help of a nurturing staff, we give children the opportunity to step outside of themselves and pretend—a moment to shine and become a star."

Cost for Summer Stock 2000 is \$450. For more information, contact Sullivan or Donovan at 753-3737.

'Men at Work' Against Cancer

A new campaign to recruit more men to the fight against breast cancer is getting under way, with a midday march and rally on Wednesday, June 7, in downtown San Francisco. Why men? "It's natural that women were the first to come to the fight to end breast cancer," says Andrea Martin, founder and director of the Breast Cancer Fund, the group sponsoring the new "Men at Work" campaign. "But we need the energy and leadership of men if we hope to land the one-two punch to knock it out."

The march begins at 345 California St. at 11:30 a.m., and proceeds down California Street to Justin Herman Plaza. At noon, there will be a program hosted by K101 deejay Don Bleu and KISS radio

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talk show host and "Voice of the Giants" Renel. Exhibit booths, food vendors, and information sources will circle the plaza throughout the lunch hour.

Official grand marshals for the parade are Mayor Willie Brown and City Attorney Louise Renne, and other notable marchers and performers include the Reverend Cecil Williams from Glide Memorial Church, labor leader Walter Johnson, slide guitarist Roy Rogers, and singer/songwriter Shana Morrison. KPIX's Dave McElhatton and Giants' manager Dusty Baker will also participate in the poster campaign.

Michael Mazzaferro, chair of Men at Work, points out that every man has a woman in his life who has been struck by this disease, and adds, "We need to stand up with the women we love and say, 'No more.'" For more information on the march and rally, call 249-9111 or visit www.breastcancerfund.org.

Calling All Indie Filmmakers

The Film Arts Foundation is looking for entries for its 16th annual Film Arts Festival of Independent Cinema, which will run from Nov. 1 through 5 at the Roxie Cinema and other San Francisco locations. Filmmakers can submit up to three films or videos of any length or genre, from features to documentaries, to experimental shorts. Membership in the foundation is not required.

With over 3,400 members, the Film Arts Foundation is the largest regional organization of independent producers in the country. Its annual festival is unique in the Bay Area. Through its long-term support of the independent filmmaking spirit, the festival is as likely to show works by old veterans as it is those of young upstarts, and gives a good snapshot of the artistic and social concerns of Northern California's diverse and influential filmmaking community.

Entry fees are \$10 per entry for early deadline (June 16), or \$15 per entry for the final deadline (July 7). For full details on the entry guidelines, call Liz Canning, festival director, at 552-FILM, or send an email to festival@filmarts.org, or visit www.filmarts.org.

Crisis Line Needs Volunteers

Are you a good listener? Caring and supportive? San Francisco Suicide Prevention needs volunteers to staff the AIDS/HIV Nightline, a crisis line that provides emotional support, crisis counseling, and information to anyone with HIV concerns. Volunteering for a few nighttime hours each month lets you help others through a difficult time.

The group provides training, and the next training class will start in mid-June. Call the Nightline at 984-1902 (day or night) to get more information.

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City College Comes to Noe Street

By Collin Campbell

The halls of James Lick Middle School won't go quiet after Noe Valley's pre-teen population sprints out for summer vacation this year. City College of San Francisco is moving its Castro/Valencia campus, formerly at Everett High on Church Street, to James Lick through the summer of 2001. The college will offer classes in everything from conversational Spanish and Italian to elementary classical guitar, as well as on-site counseling and plenty of free parking in the lot behind the school at Noe and 25th streets.

This summer, people who are hungry for learning can choose from 17 classes offered on Tuesday and Thursday nights between June 13 and July 27. There are classes in the History of Jazz, Issues in the Lesbian Community, Western Art History, and Beginning Acting, plus five languages including Mandarin Chinese.

Starting in August, the college will run a much larger fall schedule, with spots for as many as 3,200 students attending more than 80 classes on weeknights and Saturday mornings. Fall offerings include Holistic Health Practices, History of Homosexuality in Film, Career Success and Life Planning, Cultural Anthropology, and Elementary Russian (in addition to all the languages offered during the summer). For those confident enough in their fame, there's even a creative writing class on how to write an autobiography.

The cost runs about \$33 per seven-week class, and all but a couple of courses can be taken for college credit.

According to Dean Bruce Smith, the

Castro/Valencia campus attracts some of City College's most talented teachers. "The faculty love to teach here, and the students really enjoy coming out. You don't find that very often," he says.

"If I had to take a class," adds Smith, "I think I'd go for Elementary Italian. I'd love to understand operas the way they're meant to be understood." Language classes are some of the most popular offerings, so signing up in advance is a good idea. "I could offer the elementary and conversational Spanish classes on the corner of 17th and Market, and people would come," Smith says.

Construction at Everett has forced the move, and the college is at the school board's mercy as to how long it will stay at James Lick after the summer of 2001.

To find out the complete class schedule, you can call the Castro/Valencia campus at 415-239-3127, or pick up a catalog at City College's main campus at 50 Pheasant Ave. (near Ocean). You can also log on to the school's web site at www.ccsf.org.

If you'd like to preregister for the summer session, Dean Smith recommends you run over to the main campus (since time is short). After June 6, just show up at the class at James Lick Middle School, 1220 Noe St. You can enroll up to the third meeting of the class, he says.

The Castro/Valencia campus is one of 11 sites operated by City College, a public institution supported by the City of San Francisco and the State of California. "Each campus adapts to the needs of the area it serves," says Smith, "so we'd appreciate your suggestions." He notes that fall catalogs should have been mailed out to all San Francisco residents. □



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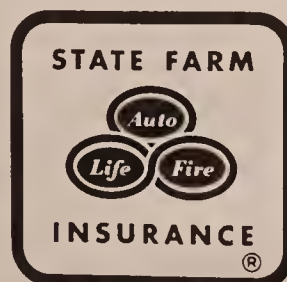
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The Heat Is On District Elections Should Spark More Candidates

By Karen Topakian

The political landscape of Noe Valley will be heating up this summer as supervisor wannabes prepare for the first district elections in San Francisco in 22 years.

As a result of Proposition G, a ballot measure approved in 1998, city voters on Nov. 7 will be choosing just one supervisor to represent their district for a four-year term. Under the current system, supervisors are elected by a citywide vote.

A task force appointed by the Board of Supervisors has carved the city into 11 districts — each with populations of 60,000 to 65,000 people, but not necessarily the same number of registered voters — taking into consideration voter turnout, ethnicity, geography, neighborhood boundaries, and other issues.

Residents of Noe Valley and surrounding neighborhoods will elect a supervisor from District 8, an area bordered by Guerrero and San Jose Avenue on the east; Bosworth on the south; O'Shaughnessy, Twin Peaks, and Ashbury to the west; and Duboce and Market to the north.

Candidates who receive a majority of votes will be elected. For others, runoffs will be held Dec. 12. "The candidates must win 50 percent plus one of the votes," says Christopher Bowman, a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Elections. "This means there will be plenty of runoffs."

The last time voters demanded district elections was in 1976, when a similar ballot initiative was approved. The elections held the following year brought the first female African-American supervisor, Ella Hill Hutch, and the first openly gay supervisor, Harvey Milk, to City Hall.

People who favor district elections say

You're Welcome to Join the Race for Supervisor

Want to run for supe from District 8? Here's how — and a look at who's already thrown their hat in the ring.

As of mid-May, the following people had filed with the Department of Elections to run for supervisor from District 8: Teresa Baum, playwright and director; Michael Garrett, disc jockey at CD Record Rack in the Castro; Eileen Hansen, longtime community activist and current public policy director for the nonprofit AIDS Legal Referral Panel (Hansen also was a strategist for Mayor Willie Brown's campaign); Mark Leno, current member of the Board of Supervisors; Shawn O'Hearn, elected member of the Democratic County Central Committee; Gary Virginia, civil rights and AIDS advocate; and Darren Zetena.

Rumored candidates, according to Alex Clemens' political-junkie web site "The Usual Suspects" (www.clemens.org/suspects.htm), are Tom Radulovich, Jeff Sheehy, Starchild, and Tommi Avicoli Mecca, a local activist and ally of supervisors' Board President Tom Ammiano.

However, "until the nomination papers' filing deadline of August 11 passes, any list of candidates for District 8 must be considered incomplete," says Theresa Rabe, campaign services manager with the Department of Elections.

That means there's still time for you, or someone else you know, to join the race. Here are the two basic requirements:

- ☞ You must be a registered voter who resides in the district for at least 30 days prior to declaring your candidacy.
- ☞ You must remain a resident in that district throughout the term.

Still game? Then you need to pay a filing fee of \$500, or submit an SIL ("Signatures in Lieu" of filing fee form) to the Department of Elections. To avoid the fee, you must collect 2,000 valid signatures. SIL forms are available at the Department of Elections in Room 48 of City Hall beginning June 2 and must be returned by July 27.

All candidates must file nomination papers between July 17 and Aug. 11. These require a minimum of 20 valid signatures and a fee of \$500.

Of course, you can always wait until the last minute and run as a write-in candidate. Still, you'll have to file your Write-In Candidacy and Nomination papers between Sept. 11 and Oct. 24.

And what's a campaign without campaign contributions? If you intend to receive any, you must fill out a Declaration of Intent to Solicit and Accept Contributions.

If you're lucky enough to win a seat on the Board of Supervisors, you may end up holding it for only two years. In order to stagger the four-year terms of office, the board clerk will draw straws on Jan. 8, 2001 — the day candidates are sworn in — to determine whether representatives of even- or odd-numbered districts will have to hit the campaign trail again in 2002.

For more information, go to the City and County of San Francisco's web site at www.ci.sf.ca.us/election/gd_board, or call 415-554-4375.

—Karen Topakian

it boosts minority representation and encourages more grassroots activists because they need less money to compete. The system also makes supervisors more accountable to their districts, and therefore more accessible to residents.

On the other hand, district elections can spawn a city of fiefdoms and insulated supervisors who worry only about the issues affecting their districts.

But Bowman points out that a lot has changed in San Francisco since the last time district elections were trotted out. "Every district is a microcosm of the city, so candidates must have a more citywide

view," he says. Also, "with term limits, there won't be any ward bosses staying for 30 years."

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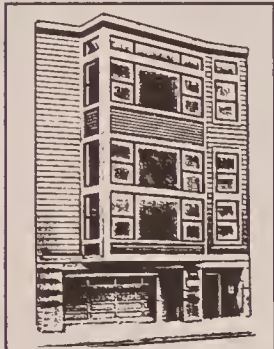
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False Alarm May Ring True For Many Local Moms

Author Heather Drohan
Draws on Own Experiences

By Maire Farrington

Noe Valley author Heather Drohan's debut novel, *False Alarm*, is a comic novel about a woman trying to do it all.

Like the author, the novel's protagonist lives in Noe Valley with her husband and two small children, while working downtown for a sports management firm. However, "none of the chicanery, foolishness, or dubious behavior in which [my] characters indulge should be construed as anything other than the product of [my] imagination," Drohan writes in the preface to Chapter One.

The novel centers around the chaotic life of Kate McCabe, a woman who is competing in the "man's world" of professional sports while nursing her second child, entertaining her zany mother and her mother's latest fiancé, and toying with the idea of having an affair. Meanwhile, her husband has given up his position as a junior partner in a law firm to become a San Francisco firefighter.

"It's a story that relates to a lot of things I've gone through," admits Drohan, 35, "like being a woman trying to juggle a career and a family and keep the house together. It's hard because there is so much expected of women these days — you really are expected to do it all."

Drohan works as a CPA for a company that manages the financial affairs of star athletes, and her insider's view of the

business was a rich source of inspiration for her novel. "I've been working for this firm for five or six years, and I've had a couple of children while I've been there, so I've nursed and done the pumping at work and the whole thing," she laughs.

And like her heroine, she finds herself jumping through hoops to satisfy the often ridiculous requirements of her job. "There are so many funny things that happen in this industry," says Drohan. There was the time when she needed to wire money to an athlete's mother in Las Vegas. The federal wires were closed for the afternoon, and Drohan found herself trekking through the Tenderloin in search of a Western Union office. "I was six months' pregnant, and I had my boss's cell phone, and I thought, this is just absurd."

Still, she hopes she's less driven than her lead character. "Kate is an over-the-top Type A: She's ultraorganized. She tries to manage it all, and she tends to overdo it. She is a little on the neurotic side. Of course, we all have tendencies like that. I think she's a likable character. She's really human."

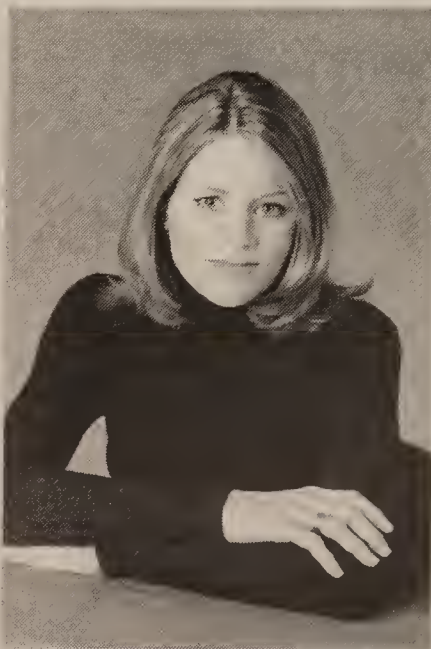
Kate's husband's career crisis seriously challenges her expectation of what their life together should be. "She sees this as abandonment," says Drohan. "He's going to be living in the firehouse, she's got these two little kids, and she's going to have to pull in most of the money. So it puts a real nick in her world."

Drohan believes her book, published this month by Creative Arts Book Company, will appeal to a wide audience. Not only does it portray contemporary women's issues, but "there's also the husband who wants to be a firefighter. I think some men do feel trapped in a career," she says. "There's some of the *Jerry Maguire* sports world, too. It gets into the motivation of the athletes."

Male readers, including sports analyst Rod Gilmore of ESPN, have given it a

thumbs-up. "He loved the book and gave me a blurb for it, and said it was absolutely dead-on for the sports world," Drohan says.

While much of the action takes place in San Francisco's Mission and Financial districts, Drohan decided to have her characters reside in Noe Valley for much the same reasons she does. "We live here because we find it such a fascinating place," says Drohan. She lives on Castro Street with her husband Gray Drohan, son



Heather Drohan includes motherhood, marital dynamics, firefighting, and professional sports in her first novel, *False Alarm*.

Ethan, age 5 (a former More Mouths feature), and daughter Carmine, 2 1/2.

"Noe Valley is like a little Cannery Row. There's so much to look at and the people are really interesting. It's just so colorful. I think people should know about this place—it's sunny, it's great. I haven't seen much written about it, and it's just so unique."

Though she's lived in the neighborhood for nearly nine years, Drohan hails from Washington State, where she began dabbling in creative writing during high school. At the University of Washington in Seattle, she rounded out her major in accounting with as many electives in creative writing as she could handle.

"I always wanted to be a writer," she relates. "I just didn't know how I was going to support myself doing it. I didn't see myself teaching because I sort of had this shy streak. So I ended up doing something really practical." This included getting her CPA license and wearing many hats in the world of finance. She's held positions as an accounting manager in an investment banking firm, an investment analyst, and a controller.

About eight years ago, "I started really hitting it — writing every day," Drohan says. At first, that meant rising at 5 a.m. to put in a couple of hours before heading to the office. "I wrote this mystery I never did anything with—it's under my bed. It's set in Spokane where I grew up. It was a good way to practice."

Drohan then published a short story in the literary journal *Zyzzyva*. Editor Howard Junker asked to see more of her work and commissioned her to write her novel *False Alarm*. "I about fell out my chair," says Drohan. "I just kept thinking, this can't be true, where's the catch?"

"So then there was all this pressure to write it, so I just hunkered down," she says.

These days, Drohan works outside the home two to three days per week, an arrangement she's made in order to have more time to spend with her children. As for the writing?

"I just do it whenever I can," she says. "The writing is such a love, though, it's a pleasure to do. I accomplish a lot more now than when I didn't have kids, because there's this desperation element where you have a babysitter for three hours and you're paying them and you know you've got to write. Someday, when I have a regular schedule, it should be easier, but now things are just so crazy in our household with all the activities."

Drohan's busy life has raised some eyebrows, but she says staying connected to the career track has added balance to her creative life.

"People say, 'I can't believe you're trying to juggle all this stuff.' They think it's just so nutty that I'm a CPA. But it really does give me material," she explains, "and there's a certain side of me that likes that there are no gray areas [in accounting]. It makes you feel as if you have some control — like, this is done, you can put it away—whereas writing is never finished."

As for what she hopes her novel will convey: "I wanted Kate to realize she's looking for perfection in her life, and to look around and appreciate what she has. I think her expectations are so high, she really needs to have some faith in what she has—in her husband and family. She is just too suspicious of people, and she worries a lot. And she needs to let go of some things. I think she learns that." □

Cover to Cover Booksellers on 24th Street will host a book-signing party for Heather Drohan on June 29 at 7 p.m. You can also catch the author at A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books on July 20. For more information, visit Heather Drohan's web site at www.heatherdrohan.com.

Excerpt from Heather Drohan's

False Alarm

Kate decided to surprise Sandy with his mother's Jell-O salad on Christmas Eve. At Bell Market, she bought a box of lime Jell-O, a can of pineapple tidbits ("not chunks"; her mother-in-law had been very specific), a jar of maraschino cherries, two pints of whipping cream, whole-milk cottage cheese, a bag of mini-marshmallows, and eight rolls of toilet paper. Kate hoped that she wouldn't screw up: making Jell-O was not a skill passed down in her family.

As she lugged the two bags of groceries up Castro Street, a bike and two strollers rolled past her. She liked that Noe Valley was full of children—Fertile Valley, it was nicknamed. The day was cool and windless. The fog had settled in the eaves of Twin Peaks, the two mountains that swelled above Noe Valley, the breasts of Mother Earth, her nipples to the sky.

San Francisco was festive during the holidays. The row houses that had once seemed so impossibly mashed together—"You couldn't even floss them," Kate had complained when she and Sandy moved there from Seattle—were decked out in wreaths and bows. The front-porch pillars of 19th-century Victorians were wrapped to look like candy canes. On 21st Street two gay men decorated the front of their house with a 30-foot tree and giant gift boxes and stuffed animals. They took turns every night in December (unless they were attending dinner parties) dressing up as Santa and passing out candy canes to the startled children. It was such a fantastic spectacle that people tried giving them money. The *Noe Valley Voice* printed their request just to donate to a favorite charity: "We're a couple of wealthy fags and don't want to take candy from a baby. This is our present to you. Use it as an example of doing good."

The house next door to them boasted so many red lights—the owner kept them up year-round—that sometimes the power flickered and the television zapped off when Kate and Sandy were watching *The X-Files*. Kate had grown up with white Christmases in Spokane and believed that Christmas lights were supposed to glisten through snow. But the city's efforts were inspiring, and Kate sighed deeply when she saw that the weather vane on top of the turret of the Victorian across the street had been changed from a rooster to an angel.

Reprinted from *False Alarm*, published as a "Zyzzyva first book" by Creative Arts Book Company (Berkeley: 2000).

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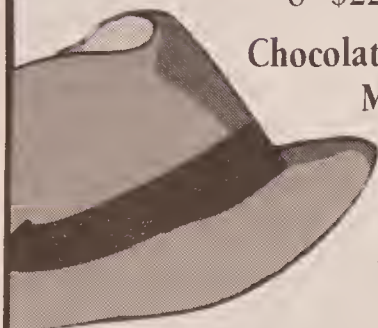
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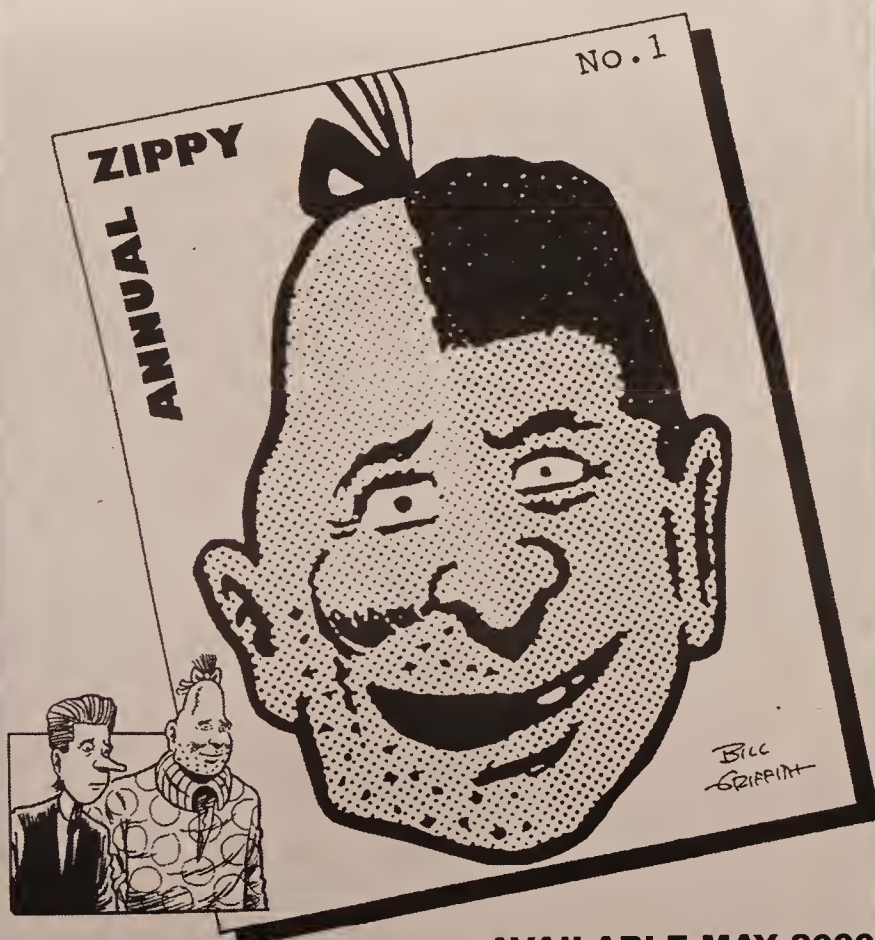
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Flora and Fauna: Months of bountiful rain and a sun crossing the sky in ever higher arcs bring out the best in Noe Valley greenery, including this wisteria framing a few quiet moments for John Gardner and his friends Roxie and Jackson.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

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BOOKS in our BRANCH

This month's new books list, provided by librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small, features a new Henry David Thoreau essay for adults, and a trip to the cloud factory and a snoring pig for children. To check out a book's availability, call 695-5095, or visit the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street near Castro. Besides books, the branch offers magazines, CDs, a new Netscape Navigator computer, and the archives of the *Noe Valley Voice*. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 to 9; Wednesdays, 1 to 9; Thursdays, 10 to 6; Fridays, 1 to 6; and Saturdays, 10 to 6.

Adult Fiction

◆ Set in the repressive world of 1920s' Ceylon, *Cinnamon Gardens* by Shyam Selvadurai, author of *Funny Boy*, portrays a respectable married man with a secret desire and a young girl resisting a marriage her family arranged.

◆ In *Old Wounds*, a mystery by Nora Kelly, a historian in a sleepy college town becomes unhinged by the murder of a student leading a double life.

◆ *So Vast the Prison* by Assia Djebar, a leading North African writer, tells the story of an Algerian woman struggling to overcome the prejudices of a tradition-bound society.

Adult Nonfiction

◆ *Animal Underworld*, by Alan Green and the Center for Public Integrity, exposes the cruel and illegal trade of animals from zoos and theme parks by breeders, scientists, and even conservationists with profit on their minds.

◆ *The Ice Finders* by Edmund Blair Bolles describes how three diverse men in the 19th century transformed our understanding of natural history and the Ice Age.

◆ Arranged by both ailment and herb, *The People's Pharmacy Guide to Home and Herbal Remedies* by Joe and Teresa Graedon, provides an overview of the 50 most popular herbs in the U.S., Europe, and Australia.

◆ In the never before published *Wild Fruits*, edited by Bradley P. Dean, Henry David Thoreau reflects on the importance of preserving our "wild" spaces for future generations.

*Annotations by Roberta Greifer
Head Librarian, Noe Valley Branch*

Films for Kids

◆ The library shows *films*, for children ages 3 to 5, on Tuesday, June 13, at 10 and 11 a.m.

Preschool Story Time

◆ Kids 3 to 5 are invited to the library's *preschool story time*, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 20.

Infant and Toddler Lapsits

◆ You and your little ones can sing lullabies and make fingerplays at the *lapsits*, Wednesdays, June 14, 21, and 28 at 7 p.m.

Summer Reading Club 2000

◆ Children up to age 13 can read books to earn prizes, from June 3 through Aug. 5, at all city public libraries.

Children's Fiction

◆ After being ousted from several places where she wants to sleep, a pig who snores finally finds the perfect place in Bernard Most's picture book *Z-Z-Zoink!* Ages 2 to 5.

◆ A lovable and talented dog, homeless for a while, finally finds a family that appreciates him in *Benny: An Adventure Story* by Bob Graham. Ages 3 to 5.

◆ The cloud factory may never be the same, following a visit by an artistic boy on a class field trip to *Sector 7*, by David Wiesner. Ages 3 to 6.

◆ At first the object of teasing because of a speech impediment, Rodney later deals with Camilla Capybara and becomes a hero in *Hooway for Wodney Wat* by Helen Lester. Ages 4 to 6.



◆ Chang, living on a houseboat on the Li River in China, finally gets the pet he's been wanting, and a new friend as well, in *Bird Boy* by Elizabeth Starr Hill. Ages 6 to 9.

◆ After several wishes and many magical transformations, a peasant couple have a new appreciation for their child in *Luba and the Wren*, written and illustrated by Patricia Polacco. Ages 6 to 9.

◆ When Olivia and her sister Nellie go to stay with their great-aunt, they have no idea what enriching experiences the summer holds in store in *The Lost Flower Children* by Janet Taylor Lisle. Ages 8 to 11.

◆ During her year in eighth grade, Alice deals with dating, sexual feelings, prejudice, and other aspects of growing up in *Alice on the Outside* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. Ages 10 and up.

*Annotations by Carol Small
Children's Librarian, Noe Valley Branch*

The Bubble Lady, Rebecca Nile!

◆ Rebecca Nile performs a special program of bubble sculptures and bubble stories, with audience participation, for all ages, on June 27 at 10:30 a.m.

Cover To Cover booksellers

Meet the authors of
*Finding A Preschool
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in San Francisco*

Sunday, June 4 at 11 a.m.

Heather Drohan

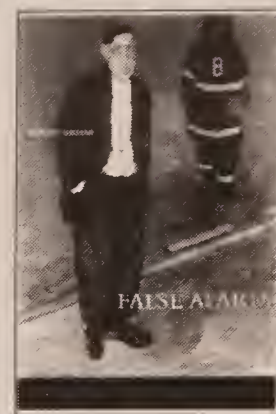
signing her first novel, set in S.F.

False Alarm

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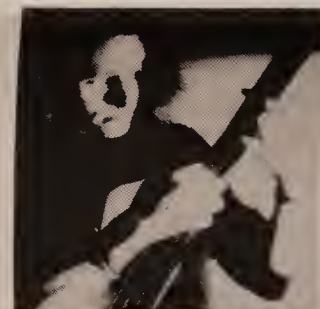
Sat. June 10 *Chirgilchin* Throat singers from Tuva (Southern Siberia) \$14adv/\$16door

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CALENDAR



JUNE 16: People's Bizarre performs original and traditional FOLK SONGS inspired by Klezmer, Hungarian, and Macedonian music, and American jazz. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

JUNE 17: Bring the little one to "TODDLER TIME with Liz" at the Bernal Heights Library. 3:30 pm. 500 Cortland Ave. 695-5160.

JUNE 17: ETH-NO-TEC performs *Sharing the Light: Wisdom Tales for the New Millennium*. 8 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9523.

JUNE 17: PENELOPE HOUSTON and Noelle Hampton perform an acoustic concert at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

JUNE 19–JULY 1: Summerfun THEATER CAMP for kids 5 to 13 features drama, dance, art, scriptwriting, and an original performance created by the participants. Mon.–Fri., 9 am–3:30 pm, with two Sunday performances. The Growing Stage at the Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750, ext. 2.

JUNE 20: Preschool STORY TIME, a read-aloud program for children 3 to 5, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JUNE 20: The authors of *Finding a Preschool for Your Child in San Francisco* will be on hand to answer questions at Natural Resources. 2 pm. 4081 24th St. 550-2611.

JUNE 20: An ANGEL WORKSHOP features guided meditations and discussions of the angelic realm, guardian angels, messengers, and guides. 8:30–10 pm. Array of Light, 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

JUNE 22: Art historian Sidra Stich gives a SLIDE TALK on contemporary arts and culture in the British Isles at the Mechanics' Institute. 6 pm. 57 Post St. 393-0014.

JUNE 22: JoAnn Levy discusses "Women of the GOLD RUSH," using letters, diaries, and newspapers. Sponsored by the San Francisco History Association. 7 pm. Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive. 750-9986.

JUNE 22: Scottish Country Dance hosts a Summer SOLSTICE PARTY, with jigs and reels to fiddle tunes; spectators welcome. 7:45 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372.

JUNE 22 & 29: Learn how to incorporate HOME ALTARS into your daily spiritual work, and explore symbols and objects used with altars. 7 to 9 pm. Array of Light, 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

JUNE 23 & 24: An AMERICAN COMPOSERS forum highlights new works by three artistic teams. 8 pm. ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. 979-4500.

JUNE 24: Kristy Harris speaks about "Improving the Quality of Life While Affected by ARTHRITIS" at the monthly meeting of the Older Women's League (OWL). 10:30 am to 12:15 pm. Call 989-4422 for location.

JUNE 24: WATER PLAY DAY at the Randall Museum features games, experiments, and Madeleine Dunphy's story hour about the watery creatures of *Here Is the Coral Reef* and *Here Is the Wetland*. 11 am–3 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9523.

JUNE 24–25: It's GAY PRIDE weekend. Saturday events start at Civic Center at noon. The parade on Sunday kicks off at 10:30 am at Market and Beale streets. Call 864-FREE for more info.



Singer-songwriter Penelope Houston appears Saturday, June 17, as part of the Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry. Photo by Stefano Massei.

JUNE 24 & 25: Create a MOSAIC stepping stone for your garden at a weekend workshop led by a Potrero Hill artist. Sat., 10 am–5 pm, and Sun., noon–3 pm. Call Joni at 648-6740.

JUNE 25: Create a SAND MANDALA at a workshop at Array of Light. 10 am–1 pm. 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

JUNE 25: Berkeley author and former Federal Public Defender Ayelet Waldman introduces a new series of MYSTERIES with *Nursery Crimes*. 1–2 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

JUNE 27: Rebecca Nile, the BUBBLE LADY, tell bubble stories and makes bubble sculptures, with audience participation, for all ages. 10:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JUNE 27: The Integral Yoga Institute offers a workshop in HATHA YOGA modifications for back pain. 6–8 pm. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

JUNE 27: ALICE ROGOFF and the National Writers Union will read poetry at Keane's 3300 Club, 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

JUNE 28–AUG. 9: A wise man teaches the practical basics of TAROT reading, using the Rider Waite deck. Wednesdays, 7 to 9 pm. Array of Light, 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

JUNE 29: This month's UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS meeting will begin at 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 285-0473.

JUNE 30: DANCES of Universal Peace features the drums and guitars of the Sufi Islamia Ruhaniyat Society. 7:30–9:30 pm. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

JULY 1: Three teachers lead CREATIVE WRITING exercises in "Fireworks from Within." 10 am–1 pm. The Writing Salon; call 642-9793 to register, or email www.writingsalons.com.

Time's a-Wastin'

The deadline to get your calendar items in the next *Noe Valley Voice*—our July/August issue—is **June 15**. (Note: The paper will be out by June 30 and will be on the streets for two months.) Please mail your notices to Calendar, *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or email zabarska@aol.com. Noe Valley events take priority, but we'll do our best to get yours in.

For last-minute changes or corrections, call Karol at 285-6347.



JULY 1: "ArtFusion," an exhibit/sale of handcrafted works for body and home, features the work of 24 Bay Area jewelers and artists. 11 am–6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 822-5580.

JULY 1: KENT BRAITHWAITE signs *The Wonderland Murders*. 3–4 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

JULY 1, 2 & 4: The San Francisco MIME TROUPE performs *Eating It*, a satirical examination of market-driven genetic engineering. 2 pm. Dolores Park. 285-1717.

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The future photographer (Pamela Gerard) and her mom—1951.

More Mouths to Feed

is our regular column about grown up and growing Noe Valley residents. To be featured, send a card including your phone number to the Noe Valley Voice, Attn: More Mouths, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Thanks. We'll be in touch.


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STORE TREK

STORE TREK is a regular feature of the *Voice*, profiling new shops in the neighborhood. This month's Store Trek covers the last two shops to fill the "Cassidy Complex," the four-story building erected in 1997 by developer Joe Cassidy on 24th Street next to Bell Market.

A Girl and Her Dog 3932 24th Street (near Sanchez) 415-643-0346

Recently on 24th Street, a girl (Annette Hickey) and her dog (a Yorkshire terrier named Bronte) opened an upscale



Annette Hickey and a terrier named Bronte are A Girl and Her Dog, a stylish boutique newly opened on 24th Street.

women's clothing boutique for the fashion-conscious.

Although Hickey was born and raised in San Francisco, her previous boutique adventure was in Burlingame, Calif. When her leasing agent told her a space had opened up in Noe Valley, she scooped up the chance for a prime location in a market full of...well, girls and their dogs.

"[A Girl and Her Dog] is for the urban, downtown kind of girl," Hickey says about the kind of customer who might enjoy wearing her chic, free-spirited clothes. "You can wear these clothes to work. But I also like to keep things special." As you walk over the shop's industrial-cement floor (handpainted by an art student) and past the brightly colored knit sweaters, flowing silk skirts, flower-painted clogs, and a handbag covered with pony fur, you begin to catch her drift.

Everything sold at A Girl and Her Dog is hand picked by Hickey at fashion shows in Los Angeles and New York. Her inventory ranges from a \$29 T-shirt to \$600 leathers, and many items are in the \$100 category.

Hickey tries on everything to make sure it's wearable and, most importantly, to check out the look. Hickey describes her clothing as a "lifestyle thing," not for any specific age or size (although she carries only sizes 2 to 10).

Since opening her doors in April, Hickey says she's felt an incredibly warm reception in Noe Valley. But how is Bronte doing? "She's adjusting. She loves people, but she's not really sure about other dogs."

So, although Hickey features human and doggie treats on her front counter, you might want to bring Fido his treat outside.

A Girl and Her Dog is open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

—Alex Nicole Leviton



Jeannine Bianculli hopes 24th Street's new Aveda store will create a stress-free oasis in Downtown Noe Valley. Photos by Charles Kennard

Aveda Environmental Lifestyle Store 3938 - 24th Street (near Sanchez) 415-647-0565

It's a cruel world sometimes. Shopping should be stressless. Customers should feel pampered, even if they don't spend a dime. That's the philosophy behind the new Aveda Environmental Lifestyle Store, conveniently located in one of the most congested blocks of 24th Street.

As you enter the store, you're greeted with a cup of complimentary tea. You can also indulge in a free five-minute chair massage.

The store carries all of Aveda's product line—the plant-based skin, hair, and body care treatments sold in fine salons. You can also purchase Aveda cosmetics, vitamins, jewelry, even soy bars.

Aveda products are androgynous—for men as well as women—although a new

men's line was launched a few years ago. Prices start at \$2.50 for shampoos and \$6 for skin care treatments. Bestsellers include Sham-pure and Rosemary Mint shampoos and conditioners, and hand and foot care products (to show off your toes now that sandal season has arrived).

Three testing stations let you try out products, and sampling is encouraged. Always wanted pink shampoo? A customizing station offers shampoos, conditioners, bath oils, and lotions that come scent- and color-free so you can create your "personal blends."

Can't decide between floral or woody? Aveda encourages you to take a sensory journey through aromas, even providing coffee beans to cleanse your scent palate.

No reason your home can't smell as nice as your hair. Aveda sells candles, tea lights, even fountains, which can be customized with your favorite aromas.

Aveda's makeup line offers scented selections as well. Lipsticks, for example, contain essential oils to help freshen your breath.

Although fragrance is Aveda's hallmark, the chain says it recognizes that scent is not positive for everyone. It recently launched an "All-Sensitive" line, with seven gentle aroma- and dye-free products, that is also suitable for babies. The shampoo was rated "Healthiest of the Year" by *Health* magazine.

And since beauty is not only skin deep, Aveda offers a line of "Intelligent Nutrients"—vitamin supplements for internal wellness, such as Intelliderm for Healthy Skin (\$34.95).

The store's "experience sizes"—trial-size products—are handy for travel or stowing in a gym bag.

Hours at Aveda are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

—Stephanie Rapp

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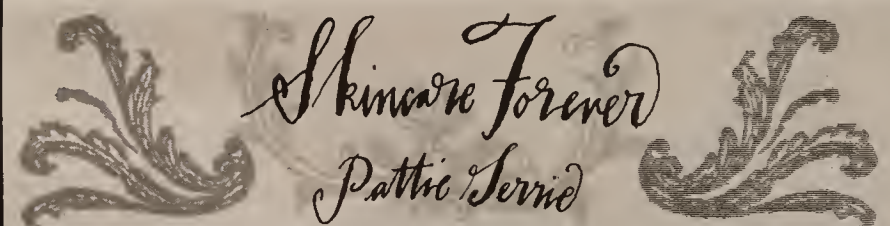


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[Photo Circa 1910]

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Nina's Photos on Display: Juno Duenas, Nina Youkelson, and Cheryl Hughes check out a Youkelson photo exhibit at the Center for Children with Disabilities. Youkelson, whom you may recognize as head teacher at the Noe Valley Nursery School, shot the photos when the center's young clients visited the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers. Photo by Beverly Thorp

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A Monumental Achievement: For the past two years, ceramic sculptor Paul Lanier, artist-in-residence at Alvarado Elementary School, has been harnessing the energy of his students to create a 40-foot-long mosaic mural on the Eureka Street side of the school at 625 Douglass St. Among the young artists who joyously unveiled the mural last month were (l. to r.) Melissa Lee, Ashley Scofield, Brittany Bennette, Ashley Verrett, Juan Espinosa, Wilfredo Zamudio, Amiel Gonzalez, and Samantha Douglas.

Photo by Charles Kennard

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ARE WE THERE YET?

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Noise and Garbage: Taking the Kids to See *Stomp*

By Janis Cooke Newman

Four men wearing lime-green rubber gloves enter with kitchen sinks slung around their necks. Brushing their rubbered fingers against the metal ridges of the drain boards, they produce a rhythmic sound somewhere between a squeak and a shush. One by one, they pour water out of a pot, a bowl, a coffee mug, while tapping a spoon against the edge to create a series of rising scales. Finally, they straddle a metal bucket and unstop their sinks, letting the water drain out between their legs like they're peeing.

"Cool," says my 5-year-old son, Alex. "Yeah, cool," agrees my 46-year-old husband, Ken.

In a world where children's theater too often means *Barney on Ice* or a perky gymnast in green tights, it's refreshing to find a show that both kids and grown-ups can like. Good thing there's *Stomp*, now playing in an open-ended run at San Francisco's Marines Memorial Theatre.

Stomp is all noise and movement, without any of that plot and dialogue stuff kids find so boring. In fact, *Stomp* has no dialogue at all. Instead, the eight performers make music by banging on matchboxes, broomsticks, the floor, even their bodies.

The original *Stomp*, which was created by two English street performers, premiered in London in 1991 and has won nearly every British theater award.



Who says children don't like theater? Okay, so *Stomp* ain't *Hamlet*. But kids appreciate that the performers eschew dialogue in favor of banging and clanging.
Photo by Ken Newman

Three years later, it opened at the Orpheum Theatre in New York. The New York production received an Obie, and is still running.

Although a road company of *Stomp* toured the U.S. in 1995, the current show at Marines Memorial is the first locally produced version outside of New York and London.

Stomp's set is industrial-urban-junkyard: corrugated steel walls and metal grids covered with traffic signs and abandoned car parts. The cast is young, and male and female. They dress in paint-spattered overalls and tattered baggy shorts, which make them look like people in a hipper, grittier Gap ad.

We stare in fascination as they creep onstage with rubber plungers in their hands. Taking turns, they suction the

plungers to the floor and then yank them up, making a sound like cartoon raindrops falling into a pond. Listening, I remember how I used to sneak down to the basement and stick the toilet plunger onto the side of my mother's metal washing machine, for the satisfying sound it made when I pulled it off.

After plonking the plungers, the cast slides big garbage cans across the stage, producing a rasp that sounds exactly like Darth Vader breathing. Then they beat out an African rhythm with sticks that resemble giant Q-tips.

In another scene, the performers swing from body harnesses high above the stage, while drumming on metal pipes and street signs. It sounds like a clangier version of Tito Puente's Cuban orchestra.

Stomp is made up of a series of these quick scenes, each one featuring a different "instrument." This is great for kids, because if they lose interest in the crinkling newspapers, they're only a minute or so away from the rubber tubes.

In my husband's favorite scene, the performers lumber out like Frankenstein's with black oil drums attached to their feet. In my son's favorite, three cast members take turns digging through a garbage bag, looking for trash with noise-making potential.

Seeing Alex transfixed by someone playing an empty Slurpee cup, I realize that what makes *Stomp* perfect for kids

is that it's all about making noise and playing with garbage—activities which must speak to some universal childhood impulse. (Who among us hasn't at some point in our lives tried turning two trashcan lids into cymbals?)

During the encore, we in the audience get a chance to test our own percussive skills. As the cast takes us through a complicated bit of chest slapping, I begin to suspect that my child has no sense of rhythm. However, on the way out of the building, he executes a tricky bit of syncopation with his Winnie-the-Pooh umbrella on the stone steps.

The next day, I catch my husband playing something that sounds vaguely Caribbean on a large plastic water bottle.

"I'm trying it out," he tells me, "for the kids at Alex's preschool."

"Uh-huh," I say, heading down to the basement with the laundry, picking up the plunger along the way. □

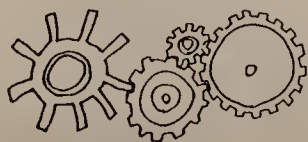
If You're Planning to Go

Stomp is playing at the Marines Memorial Theatre, at 609 Sutter St. near Mason. Performances are Tuesdays through Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 5 and 9 p.m., and Sundays at 3 and 7 p.m. Prices for the Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday shows are \$35 to \$40. On Friday, Saturday, and the 3 p.m. show on Sunday, tickets are \$40 to \$45.

The good news is that at the Sunday 7 p.m. performances all seats are \$25. Tickets can be purchased by phone at 877-771-6900, or online at www.tickets.com. Note: Marines Memorial is a fairly small theater—we sat in the last row of the balcony and had no trouble seeing or hearing the show.

Parents and teachers should check out *Stomp's* web site, www.stomponline.com. Under "Percussion for Kids," you'll find a simple explanation of the theory behind *Stomp*, as well as Sound-Around activities children can do before and after going to the theater. —J.C.N.

Are We There Yet? is a Voice feature about places to go and things to do with your kids. If there's an activity or outing you'd like to see explored, please email Janis Cooke Newman at j-newman@pacbell.net or the Noe Valley Voice at jaxvoice@aol.com.



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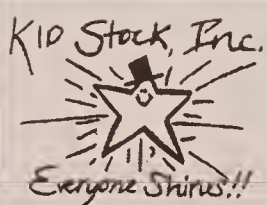
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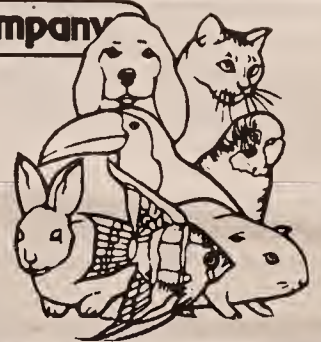
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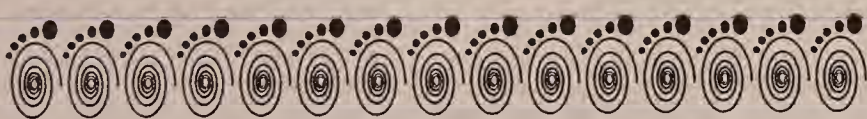


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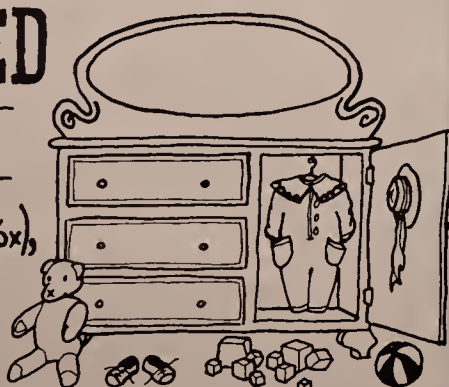
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By Maire Farrington

Camille Rae Kelly

Francine and Sean Kelly gave birth to their daughter, Camille Rae Kelly, on March 15, 1999. "It was short and intense," says Francine, in describing her 12-hour labor and delivery.

"We had all these labor nurses as I kept progressing in labor, and the one that walked in had big, huge orange clown shoes on, and spiked white bleached hair. Sean said, 'This is the one we're getting.' And sure enough, this Bozo nurse turned out to be *our* labor nurse. But she also turned out to be great. So it was a good omen to see the clown shoes coming in."

The Kellys' beautiful 6-pound, 6-ounce bundle of joy arrived at 9:36 p.m.

"We had a really great time. It was like camp," Francine says. The couple enjoyed the TLC from the staff at California Pacific Medical Center, and Dad got to bunk out with Mom for their two-day stay.

Baby was actually named in a round-about fashion. Her nickname "Mimi" was selected first.

"We've just been calling the baby Mimi forever," Francine explains. "Before we even got married, we decided we were going to have a baby named Mimi. So then we thought, Okay, how are we going to find a legit name to go with that?"

Then they came up with "Camille," from the play by Alexandre Dumas. "I'm an actor, and it turns out Mimi's a big ham, too," says Francine. "She's really happy and likes to interact with everybody. She'll share a joke and smile at you in a certain way."

"She's into our antics," agrees Sean. "You can do a silly song-and-dance and then hide behind the refrigerator, and she'll look at you with a sly little look."

Their daughter's middle name, Rae, is a derivative of Rachel, a name from Sean's family tree. Mimi's more contemplative side may have roots there.

"Sean is really mellow," says Francine. "He can sit and kind of Zen out and space out. Mimi's great because she's really mercurial and active and all, but she's pretty cool just sitting in his lap in the morning when he reads the paper."

With her blond-brown hair and brown-green "chameleon" eyes, Mimi is "a cool combination of the two of us," Sean says.

"We expected a little black-haired baby. We thought I would definitely dominate things," Francine says. "She was a surprise all the way, which is fine with me. I like what we got."

Mimi's grin reveals eight teeth, "and plenty more coming in. I'm sure we'll hear about it," Sean quips. All the better for tackling those string beans, broccoli, and cauliflower.

"She's really a veggie head," says



Mimi Kelly (with mom Francine and dad Sean) is toddling full-speed-ahead and talking up a storm, whether on 24th Street, at Day Street Park, or at home in Glen Park.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

Mom. "I hope it doesn't change. We were having dinner the other day and we were eating bowls of steamed vegetables with rice, and she just had to have some. We thought it was funny because what kid insists on sharing your zucchini?"

Francine, 34, a drama teacher at the American Conservatory Theatre (ACT), and Sean, 32, owner of a small health-food business, met through a mutual friend in San Francisco in 1992. They became friends and roommates, and a romance blossomed. They bought their house on Surrey Street in Glen Park in 1996 and were married the following year.

The Kellys are thrilled that they can each stay on the career track and still provide full-time care for their daughter. "I guess we're relatively unique," Sean says. "We're either both at home most of the day, or we're handing her off between the two of us. It's been wonderful that we have the flexibility to do it this way. As long as we manage it right, it works out great."

"I'll teach a three-hour class, and then I'm racing home because I miss her," Francine relates. "I feel extremely blessed that she's so close to both of us, and that she and her dad have such an incredible bond."

Mornings find Mimi joining the Noe Valley stroller parade. "We'll go get our cappuccinos, and she gets her juice," says Francine. "Twenty-fourth Street has a lot of babies on the strip, so she can feel at home and get a baby bagel up there."

Sometimes mom and daughter team up with 1½-year-old pal Liam Schroth and his mother Leslie for day trips in the Schroths' SUV. "We pack them in the back and go up to Sacramento or Davis, just to get them out of the city."

On weekends, Mimi gets all dolled up

for visits with Grandma, Katie Torres, who comes by to take her granddaughter out for a stroll, shopping, and lunch.

Jaunts over to Day Street Park are also part of Mimi's ritual. "The Rec and Park Department has a great setup, with story time and Kids' Gym," says Francine. "She especially loves the songs. She can do the hand motions to 'Itsy Bitsy Spider' and 'Wheels on the Bus.'"

Mimi, at 14 months, has recently graduated from crawler to toddler status. And she's erupted with "a word explosion," says Francine. Spicing up her vocabulary are *Daddy, Mommy, baby, apple*, and the ever popular *uh-oh*. "You say a word, and she instantly repeats it back to you."

Mimi takes well to strangers, and likes to be with people. So naturally, "going out to dinner is her new favorite thing. We've learned to appreciate family-style restaurants. If they've got highchairs and a floor that looks like it can be cleaned, then we're there," laughs Francine.

"If we go to parties, we usually take her with us," Sean says. "The only thing we can't do is see a movie, unless it's at Tanforan. It's all families with kids. When we went to a movie before we had her, the noise level never settled. It was kids talking, screaming, and running up and down the aisle the entire movie. We were like, Okay, we can come here with a kid."

Wherever they go these days, they enjoy being a threesome. "People tell you how hard having a kid is, and it is very challenging," Francine reflects. "However, we're approaching it this way: we're going to be very mellow about things, and we're not worrying about them before they happen. And she has delighted us—she goes to bed easily, she eats easily, she's happy.... She gives us back a lot."

"We try to look at the world through her eyes. Every day, she gives us something new to marvel at or appreciate." □

THE VOICE NEEDS BABIES

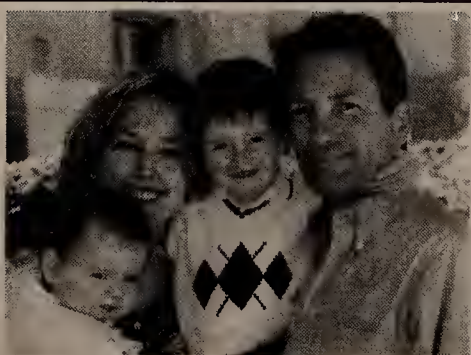
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THE NOE VALLEY VOICE welcomes your essays, letters, stories, and poems. Send items to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or email jaxvoice@aol.com. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number (and an email address, if you have one). Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like your manuscript returned. Thank you.



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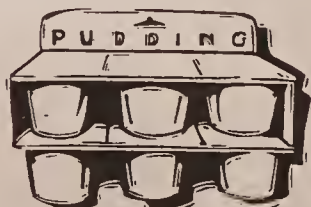


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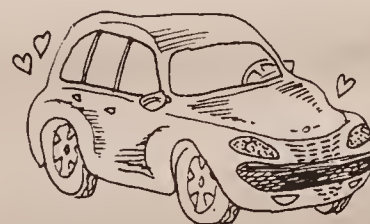
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Their Front! Why, it's Remy Everett's fourth-grade class from St. Philip's School. They've escaped their classroom for some *al fresco* art work, sketching the church's multi-geometric facade.

Photos by Pamela Gerard



They're Back! But who are they? A mass of mini-meditators, serenely squatting across from St. Philip's Church at Elizabeth and Diamond? Or maybe a gaggle of young tourists, pausing during a spring stroll around the neighborhood?

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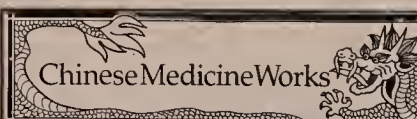
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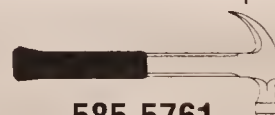
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by Florence Holub

Remembering My Father

Every year when June rolls around, I cannot help but think about my father. First comes Father's Day (this year on June 18), and then the summer solstice on June 21. Then there's his birthday, June 22, which coincides with Midsummer Day, one of the most celebrated holidays in his native Finland. (Finland, by the way, was occupied by Sweden at his birth in 1888.)

When my two brothers and I were young, our father used to tell us, solemnly but tongue-in-cheek, that this holiday was held to honor his birth. Of course, we soon learned that the Scandinavian people had other cause for joy—the summer solstice brought the sunshine that lasted throughout the day and night. Our father came from a latitude where everyone rejoiced at the return of the light (and especially the fast-growing crops) by singing and dancing for weeks. He was born to the happy sounds of music and dancing feet.

I suspect that most children have to become adults before they can appreciate the challenges their parents faced. But I was in my 30s and raising three boys of my own before I fully realized the special talents and wisdom of my father.

True to his culture, my father was the authority figure in the family. He sought to keep his three high-spirited children in line and out of trouble. Our mother, meanwhile, provided the gentle guidance and encouragement that all children need. Sadly, she died too young, of cancer at age 43. So our father had to assume both roles in dealing with three rambunctious teenagers. And he performed these roles nobly!

Although he was lonely, he did not go searching for female companionship after our mother died, but filled his life with music instead. He always loved music and could play numerous instruments—piano, violin, accordion, and later the guitar. And he sang, performing with two exceptionally fine Swedish choral groups. They all wore black jackets, white pants, a black tie, and a white cap with black brim and gold insignia. They performed at various Nordic churches, at the Swedish-American Hall on Market Street, and at Finn Hall (later Latvian Hall) on Hoffman Avenue in Noe Valley. I remember a performance at the Concourse in Golden Gate Park where he received thunderous applause.

It was in the early 1940s when my father decided that we had matured enough to allow him to relax his parent-

ing a bit, so he told us to henceforth refer to him not as "Pa," but by his given name, John. And he found a new interest: he joined an amateur cowboy band, playing his guitar, wearing cowboy garb, and singing sad songs that often brought tears to his eyes. (We found out what a softy he really was at that time.) His name in the band was Tumbleweed John. I recall going to sleep at night to the sound of a strumming guitar and his voice singing, in a slight Swedish accent, "the vind in the walley...." from a western ballad.

When the band broke up, he moved straight from his cowboy period into his dancing period. In those days, there were dance halls all over the Bay Area. John Mickelson was an excellent dancer, and there was such a bounty of widows, he was extremely popular as a partner. He began going out dancing almost every night. Not many women drove automobiles then, so he often took a carload of widows home from the dance. Sometimes when he was giving me a ride, he would point out the



Florence Holub's musically gifted father, John Mickelson, shown here in 1943, sang in a Swedish choral group and played in a western cowboy band.
Photo by Leo Holub

homes of his many lady-friends in the neighborhood.

Occasionally he became attached to a particular dance partner and brought her home to meet us. They were always lovely ladies, but soon he would be escorting another one. He never remarried, although I assure you his married daughter (and sons) would not have objected.

As a building contractor, John helped each of us obtain our own homes. And since my brothers worked days but I was usually at home tending to the children, he visited my home often. We developed a wonderful relationship, especially after he retired. He also got along well with "my man" Leo, whose many accomplishments and sense of humor he greatly admired.

After years of patching up our house on 21st Street, John had every right to consider it his second home. He would often drop by in the afternoon, saying it was foggy over at his place in the Sunnyside and he needed our real Noe Valley sunshine to help him rest up for an evening of dancing.

First he would have a glass of home brew, then stretch out on the deck for a nap. One day while he was sleeping, a repairman came to fix our broken refrigerator. The man was very talkative, so he went on as he worked, until he stopped cold in the middle of a sentence and said in a hushed voice, "Lady, there is a lifeless man lying out there on your porch!" He was relieved to learn that it was my very-much-alive father.

Another day, a newcomer to our street, misreading the situation, approached me and asked in a judgmental tone who the man was that came to see me after my husband went to work. My reply ensured no further suspicions.

My father continued to enjoy life to the fullest until 1973, when he turned 85. That was the year that he failed his eye test (because of cataracts) and lost his license to drive. He was heartbroken, and his self-confidence, as well as his social life, suffered terribly.

This spurred me to take driving lessons, and to buy an old Mustang so I could offer him a lift—literally and figuratively. Once I got my driver's license, I would pick him up and take him to our house for dinner every Sunday. While I cooked, Leo would put on records that he knew John would enjoy. His favorite (remember, he was a carpenter!) was "If I Had a Hammer."

If he needed transportation someplace else, I could usually drive him. But one day he ventured out on foot, arriving at the intersection of Capp and 24th streets. As he crossed Capp Street, a speeding car turned the corner, knocked him down, and sped off, unidentified. John was taken to San Francisco General Hospital, where they set his broken arm and sent him home with scrapes and bruises, and two black eyes.

When I took him back to the hospital for a followup, the doctor was so amazed and impressed with his overall good health and recuperative ability that he asked if he could observe him for a year. The physician, Dr. Verlenden, confessed that he wanted to find out what John had been doing so he could do it himself. This special attention from Dr. Verlenden gave quite a boost to my father. The experience also inspired the doctor, who said he rarely got the chance to treat such a healthy, active older patient.

John did well for the next year, but arthritic knees soon made walking difficult. After he suffered a few falls, Dr. Verlenden decided that he should not be alone, and recommended a nursing home.



When I told Leo, he said he couldn't allow his father-in-law to go to a nursing home; John would sleep on our livingroom couch, which opened up into a full-size bed. And so for the next three months, my father came home to live with us.

We took good care of him, but soon it became clear that his health was failing. The doctor noticed it too and asked John, "What's bothering you?" His answer was, "Doctor, I used to be able to dance all night, and now I can't, and dat is vat's killing me!"

At John's next checkup, tests revealed that his condition had worsened, so the doctor decided to keep him at the hospital overnight for evaluation.

In the morning when I arrived, my father was in good spirits but in the intensive-care unit. The next day we found him in a private room, but not feeling well, unable to eat. He did manage to swallow a couple of spoonfuls of broth, but only to please me, I'm sure.

At the end of the day, I went home to cook dinner for "my men"—Leo and our son Eric. We had just finished dinner when the phone rang. A kind doctor on duty at the hospital informed us that if we wanted to see John again we had better come quick.

Leo, Eric, and I rushed to his hospital room. The minute he saw us, John smiled and tried to rise up, assuming he was going home. But his heart was too weak, and he fell back onto the pillow. A short time later, with the doctor, Leo, and Eric standing nearby and with me holding his hand, my father took his final breath. It was a tender last moment to a life well lived and much loved. He was 87.

Long ago, my father told me that he was proud of what his daughter had done with her life. But I know that if John had lived long enough to see Florence's Family Album appearing monthly in the "Noe Valley Voice," he would be on Cloud 9, singing and dancing and yumping for joy. □

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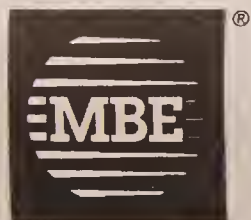
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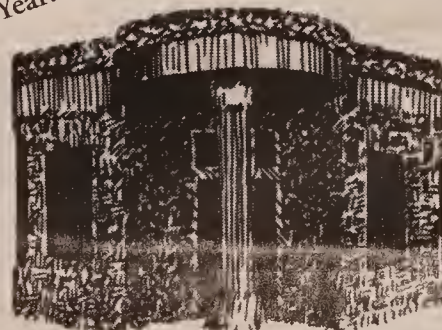
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Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230; capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Association

Contact: Ed White, 774-3237
Mailing Address: First Church of God, 3728 Cesar Chavez St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Last Thursday of month, First Church of God, 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Dennis Downing, 441-9243; Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street

Improvement Club
Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m. Call for summer holiday schedule.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday (except July, August, and December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for details.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month, Glen Park Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Harry Stern, 821-1086, or harrystern@aol.com
Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:45 p.m.

La Leche League of San Francisco

Contact: Thalia DeWolf, 641-8366
Mailing Address: 47 Costa St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, Bernal Heights Library, Cortland & Moultrie, 10:15 a.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: Katherine Pietrycha, president: Katherine.Pietrycha@wcom.com
Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44, San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Executive board meets first Tuesday of month; general meetings quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Courts Coalition

Contact: Dr. Tom Mills, secretary.
Voicemail: 675-0110; nichapin@aol.com.
Mailing Address: Noe Courts Coalition, P.O. Box 460520, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: Irregular. Call for information.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087
Mailing Address: 167 Valley Street, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Second Wednesday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8692
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick, Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114-6003
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association

Contact: Debra Niemann, 641-4934, or Krista Keegan, 550-9050
Mailing Address: 4171 23rd St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Monday of month, St. Paul's Church cafeteria, 3 p.m. Call to confirm.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
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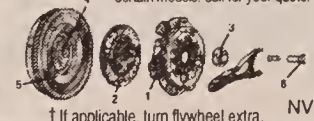
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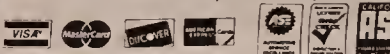
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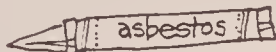
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Morning Meeting Space Available. If you are in need of a place for small, informal meetings, look at what the Fountain of Youth can offer you. For a fixed rate, we will provide a continental breakfast and a fun, bright, and unstuffy atmosphere in which you can conduct your meetings with exclusive use of our space at 1484 Church St. Please call Kathy at 415-206-9411.

Scottish Country Dancing is fun, energetic, and social. No partners needed. Introductory party, \$2, Thursday, Sept. 14, at 8 p.m. Noe Valley Ministry. Bring flat shoes. Basic class starts Sept. 21. Eight class series is \$40. Call 333-9372.

We Solve the Mystery of remodeling and home repair. Mystery Carpentry provides quality work at reasonable prices. Free estimates. License #731187. Call Dan at 415-9042.

Doula. Mindfulness-based approach to supporting you and your choices during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum. Call for references and complimentary first meeting. Christina Drakos, Certified Doula, 415-731-3465.

Trash the Throwaway Society! Recycle technology! Will take your nonfunctioning technological objects. 415-282-SHOP (7467).

Make Yourself Comfortable (and help someone else relax, too!). Breema is fun-to-do, mutually beneficial, time-proven bodywork (done fully clothed on a padded floor), based on nine principles for living harmoniously. For health professionals, families (ages 12 plus), and everyone else. Workshop, June 11, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. \$40 (\$30 if paid by June 7). 415-255-7947.

Ixtapa, Mexico. Two-bedroom, two-bath bungalow, \$300 per week. Near golf course and excellent fishing. Arrangements: 415-641-5636.

Creative Writing Classes, year-round, at the Writing Salon. 415-642-9793; www.writingsalons.com.



NOE VALLEY VOICE CLASS ADS

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Priceless neighborhood exposure

The deadline is the 15th of the month

CLAS ADS

Musical Birthday Parties. Fun instruments, songs and dances for preschool-aged children. Call Diane, 415-561-9754.

Celtic Shamanistic Massage, integrating barefoot Shiatsu, Thai, acupuncture. 24th and Sanchez, Noe Valley. 970-8220.

Dances of Universal Peace. Join us for an evening filled with beautiful dances in which everyone can participate. Led with drums and guitar by the Sufi Islamia Ruhaniat Society (SIRS). Friday, June 30, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$8 donation. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Child Care. Wanted: one newborn to love. I am mature, a non-smoker, with my own car. Excellent local references. 415-587-6547.

Bed and Breakfast "Cottage Gate." Comfortable, charming studio apartment; queen bed, kitchenette, breakfast choices provided, phone, private bath, security gate, level private entrance. 20th and Douglass. 415-626-6497.

Hot Flash! Midlife Women's Groups in Noe Valley. Meet with women your age, supporting each other through the struggles, challenges, and joys of midlife. We are trailblazers and elders-in-training, redefining what aging means to us. Arlene Dumas, L.C.S.W. 415-641-4553.

TLC Petsitting. Enjoy happier vacations when your pets and home are cherished by meticulous, mature, dependable Joanne. Overnights welcome! 510-834-1027.

Welcome to Our Support Group. Learn and utilize various methods of staying healthy: weight training, flexibility, aerobics, weight management, diet. 415-668-8310.

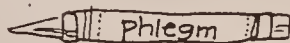
Bodywork, Holistic Massage, Expressive Arts to help free you of stress, negativity, and old patterns. Open to new possibilities and perspectives to create greater richness and depth in relationships, work, and creative pursuits. Noe Valley office. Sliding scale, starting at \$50. First session \$40. Cynthia Liuska, M.A. Psychology, C.M.T. Call 415-561-9330.

Word Processing: Manuscripts, theses, dissertations, tape transcription, editing. Joanne, 431-0603.

Violin Lessons. All ages, all levels and Suzuki. Instructor has Bachelor and Master of Music degrees, and is a San Jose Symphony member. Easy parking, J-train. 821-2917.

Valley Cleaning Services. We do residential and commercial, construction cleanup, moving in or out, window and carpet cleaning; floor stripping, sealing and waxing, and pressure washing. We are specialists in driveways and roofs. Weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly. 20 percent off first visit. Call Leo Lima, 415-255-9211.

Proofreading/Copyediting by professional with 15 years of experience. Manuscripts, brochures, flyers, newsletters, academic papers, etc. Reasonable rates. Call My Editor at 415-492-1131.



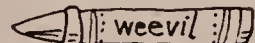
Dog Joy. Leave your dog with Bob while you're away, and he'll have a vacation, too. Day care, home visits, daily walks. \$15 to \$20 per day. 415-282-7467.

Relaxing and Renewing Massage by Catherine. I use a combination of styles that include acupuncture, barefoot Shiatsu, Thai massage, and Tui Na. Special introductory offer. Three sessions for \$100. Call 970-8220. Noe Valley.

Home and Office Cleaning. Excellent references, professional. Reasonable prices. Offering service seven days a week. For more details, call Anita, 510-235-2580.

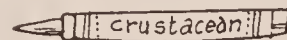
Homework Hassles? StudyBuddy can help: credentialed teacher, reasonable rates. 586-4577.

Tax Preparation and Consulting. My 11-year-old practice consists largely of self-employed individuals, many of whom are artists or musicians. I also specialize in helping nonfilers, audit representation, offers-in-compromise, and prebankruptcy tax planning. Call Alan Steger, E.A., 415-387-3057.



Summer Cottage Vacation Rentals by the week or month. One block to 24th Street. Dave, 282-4492. www.hidden-cottage.com.

Integral Yoga Teacher Training. Starts September 2000 for 14 weeks. Graduates receive a certificate to teach beginner Hatha Yoga. This comprehensive course also offers a chance for you to deepen your own practice, have a healthier body, and develop a greater sense of your inner self. Please call Jivana Heyman, ext. 375, at the Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.



Need a Driver to take you grocery shopping, doctor's office, etc.? Retired dependable businessman is at your service. Excellent references. \$15 an hour. Bill: 826-3613.

Audio Design Services for home or office. Avoid salesman hype and save substantial \$ as a result. I will analyze your listening interests and space and budget constraints and configure the best-sounding, most cost-effective system to meet your needs. Interior design considerations and system flexibility to facilitate future expansions/upgrades also included. 40 years audiophile experience. Reasonable rates. Initial consultation free. 415-285-8482.

Office Space Available to Sublet in a suite of established offices. A perfect office for psychotherapists, massage therapists, or writers. Beautifully furnished, freshly painted office in the heart of Noe Valley on 24th Street. Shared waiting room and bathroom. Full days and half days available. Call 821-7517 for more information.

Noe Valley Office Space Wanted to rent four days or more per week. I am a responsible bodyworker and movement educator in private practice for over 25 years. Please call 648-1718.

Charlie the Phone Guy. Residence and business telephone systems, fax/modem lines, office-in-home. Dead phone jacks brought back to life! Separate jacks for roommates. Free estimates. Noe Valley resident. Call 641-8654.

Home Care, Elder Care. Experienced R.N. "adapted to your needs." Insured and bonded. Sliding scale. 415-824-1253.

Wanted to Rent: Garage, storage area, or whole house, long-term. Petsitter/animal advocate, 45, never bothers landlord with minor repairs, very self-reliant. San Francisco resident since 1977. Bob, 415-282-7467.

Time for a Change? I believe you already know everything you need to know to live a rich and fulfilling life. Sometimes, though, we lose touch with this knowledge. Psychotherapy can help you reconnect. Life transitions, identity issues, chronic illness, mind/body connections, anxiety/panic, grief, creativity, lesbian/gay issues, depression, early traumas, and cross-cultural issues are my areas of interest and experience. Sliding scale. Marilyn Jean, M.F.T. #35206. Noe Valley. 789-8506.

Clean & Natural: Housecleaning service. Licensed, bonded. Call Simone, 415-303-9865 or 415-577-8188; cleannaturalsg@aol.com.

Telecommunications Wiring. Telephone, computer, co-ax, speaker, intercom. Home or business. Experienced, reasonable, reliable. Kent, 415-401-0214.

Home and Office Cleaning. Excellent references, professional. Reasonable prices. Offering service seven days a week. For more details call Maria, 415-487-1574.

Licensed Painter. Interior and exterior. Also, plaster and drywall repair. Small jobs okay. License #497-214. Please call Ed at 995-4666. Free estimates.

Fog City Dog now accepting clients for canine exercise group. Noe Valley resident. Reasonable rates, senior discounts. Bonded. Lou, 824-9374.

Gardening: creative and efficient planting, pruning, and maintenance using organic methods. Innovative designs and renovations. 415-626-1258.

Stressless Housecleaning...because life's hectic enough. Superior quality. Customized cleaning. Free estimates. Call Jeanine, 564-2877.

All Things Macintosh: Troubleshooter for hire! Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance. Software support, tutoring, and more. References. Roslyn, 510-526-1209.

Do You Need Housecleaning? We'll do it. References. \$13 per hour. Call Marco and Sara, 643-1262.

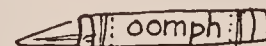
Workplace Personal Mentoring/Coaching. Having problems succeeding/surviving an unfriendly workplace? Thirty years experience handling chaotic/abusive situations. Especially effective helping women manage male environments. Compassionate, savvy, licensed family therapist with graduate degrees in both individual and organizational psychology. Three published books on work. 415-285-6751. Noe Valley. Workshops available. Email: workfamily@workmail.com.

Therapeutic Swedish or Deep Tissue Massage. Relax in the comfort of your own home or get away from it all in mine. First-time clients only, \$35 per hour (\$10 extra for out-calls). Evening and weekend appointments available. Strictly non-sexual. Call Jamine at 415-305-7250.

Start Your Healing Journey. Gentle, practical, individual and couples therapy by experienced Marriage and Family Therapist. Sliding scale. Free 15-minute phone consultation. Lesbian/gay/bi/straight welcome. Noe Valley. Julie DePinna Armer, M.A., M.F.C. lic. #36609. Call 415-882-1161.

Quaint "Victorian Garden" B&B near 26th and Sanchez. Private and ground level, living room, fireplace, bathroom, bedroom with queen-size bed, office nook, flower-filled patio/garden, laundry facilities, phone, sound system, cable TV, plentiful breakfast items. Apartment is lovely and quiet. Two-night minimum. Call 206-0202.

Mac or iMac Computer? Need Help? I can...help you clean up your computer, get your computer talking to your printer and modem, set up e-mail and the web, etc. I am the tech coordinator at an elementary school. Evenings and weekends in your home. 641-7062.



Chase: A Variety of Mortgage Financing programs to fit a variety of needs. Shop for your home with the confidence of knowing you're pre-approved. Free passport-to-purchase offers. Zero cost home equity lines and loans. Call Senior Loan Officer Nancee Fujitake today at Chase Manhattan Mortgage. 415-393-1275. nancee.k.fujitake@chase.com.

Experience Relief from Stress, muscular tension, and pain, and improvement in flexibility, posture, and coordination through the Feldenkrais Method Awareness Through Movement class. Slow, gentle movements, safe for people of all ages. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Monday evenings, 8 to 9 p.m. Anne Roberti, GCFP, 415-824-1590.

House Cleaning...homes, offices, apartments. References available; honest person. Call 650-758-2496. Mrs. Selva and Sheila.

Furniture Wanted. I need old and antique dressers, tables, desks, etc. Any condition. Paying cash. Estimates also. Karen, 415-647-6157.

See Original Dog Products at www.lionphoteaux-invention.com.

Web Site Design. 415-643-2800. www.hand-shake.com; mail@hand-shake.com.

Ayurveda Vegetarian Cooking Class. In this class we will discuss the basic body types and foods appropriate for each, while preparing a tasty meal of tea, grains, vegetable dishes, and dessert to be enjoyed by all. Taught by Ayurvedic practitioner Vijay Stallings. Sunday, June 4, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$35. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.



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Cash for Old Wood Furniture, antiques, and old things. Jim at 621-4390 or 585-1901 evenings.

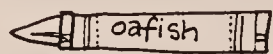
Home and Office Cleaning. Excellent references, thorough. Reliable and professional. Reasonably priced. Offering service seven days a week. For more details call Paulo, 415-923-6432.

Word Processing (expertise: legal/medical). Audio/ videotape transcription, editing, resumes, and letter composition, including complaint letters. 24-hour phone-in dictation system. Dena Reiner, 415-821-4661.

Bed and Breakfast, Noe Valley. 826-1158.

Your Nest Egg May Have a Crack. Long-term nursing care for yourself or aging relatives could wipe out a lifetime of savings and create tremendous stress on family members. Medicare does not cover long-term care, and Medicaid will require that you "spend down" your assets. Financial planners and accountants recommend Long Term Care Insurance as the most viable solution. For third-party articles or a free, no pressure consultation, call Bill Hannant at 415-647-7012.

Upholstery. We repair, rebuild, and recover overstuffed chairs, ottomans, sofas, and dining chairs. Free estimates, reasonable rates. Jorge Meraz-Baca, 282-2256.



Are Old Traumas Keeping You Stuck in feelings of anxiety or depression? Recovery from traumas such as childhood abuse or sexual assault allows you to move forward in life. Compassionate psychotherapy transforms old wounds. E.M.D.R. Sliding scale. Noe Valley. Liz Stolz Kughn, M.A. 415-522-2378. Experienced M.F.T. Intern, #29612. Supervised by Cynthia Kong, M.F.T. #15396.

Vacation Room Rental, Upper Noe Valley. Clean, safe, comfortable. Ideal for visiting family. Sue, 415-821-4890.

Property Owners! Thinking about remodeling or adding to your building or constructing a new building? Get the creative input your project needs from an experienced architect. Call Mike Hager at 285-7409. In Noe Valley since 1981; 28 years experience.

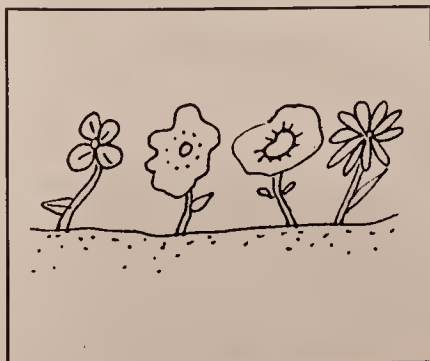
Substance Abuse Counseling. Confidential. Compassionate, certified. Bernal Heights location. Eric Denner, M.B.A., C.A.D.C. 415-824-4541.

Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley. Parents or friends coming, and no room for them? Have them stay in a lovely two-room apartment with private entrance and bathroom, fireplace, kitchen, antique furnishings. Convenient to 24th Street and J-Church line. Oliver House, 415-695-0700.

Spinning Web Gardening Service. Cleanups, pruning, pest control, planting, consultations, renovation. Call Barbara, 550-6923.

Trees, Shrubs, Hedges. Professional arborist, neighborhood resident. Twenty-plus years of experience. Free estimates, reasonable rates. Call with any garden questions. Bill Squire, 826-6160.

Hatha Yoga Modifications for Back Care. Come to this two-hour workshop and learn how Hatha Yoga can relieve back pain and strengthen the back. Don't let stiffness or back pain keep you from doing what you love. Tuesday, June 27, 6 to 8 p.m. \$8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.



CLAS ADS

Furniture Restoration. Complete antique and modern furniture restoration. Careful European craftsmanship. Expert refinishing. Custom upholstery, caning, veneering. Quality repairing. Competitive prices. Impressive portfolio and references. Free estimate, pickup, and delivery. Call Boris, 415-587-3416.

Superlative Word Processing. Experienced professional. B.A. English, M.S.W. Understandable advice. Business, medical, academic, legal, resumes, manuscripts. Expert editing. Fax machine. Laser printing. Good rates. Call anytime, 824-7736.

Living Tai Chi Chuan of Noe Valley. Meditation, Qigong, Tai Chi forms. Friendly, non-competitive. Monday and Tuesday, 6 p.m., Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., Douglass Park, Douglass at 27th. \$5 introduction (Mondays excluded). Chris Sequeira, practicing since 1973. 650-756-6857; 415-773-8185.

Would You Like Someone to Clean your house? I'll do it just for \$13 per hour. Call Jose, 415-221-2069.

Overwhelmed by Clutter? As featured on KPIX, NPR, and the *Chronicle*, ShipShape has expertly helped overworked professionals, frazzled moms, and harassed homeowners cut through clutter and restore simplicity and peace of mind to their busy lives. Homes, offices, closets, relocations, and more. Free phone consultation/brochure. Call 415-550-0658.

Housecleaner Available. Apartment, home, and office. Good experience and references. Santos or Michelle, 345-1122.

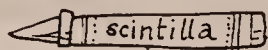
Stress Management and Carpal Tunnel prevention with experienced professional bodyworker. Introductory session discount. Fair rates. Incalls or outcalls. Duncan Reid, C.M.T., 821-3969.

Are You Experiencing Transitions in your life? I work with couples who are wanting to achieve more fulfillment in their relationships or are contemplating marriage. Adolescents who are facing the myriad choices and questions of this transitional time. Individuals who are seeking assistance through life's transitions and want to feel more grounded in their choices. Chris Kughn, M.F.T. Intern #34106, supervised by Julie Albert, M.F.T. #28884. Noe Valley office. Call 415-241-8869.

Cleaninghouse. Home, office, apartment, and apartment building maintenance cleaning. 14 years experience. Regular, one-time. Moving in, moving out? Spring cleaning! Roger Miller, 664-0513.

Piano Lessons in Noe Valley: Learn piano with patient, supportive teacher. Lessons tailored to individual goals. Music degree and 20 years of teaching experience. Ear training, theory, classical or popular repertoire, MIDI lab. Barbara Bannett, 648-1007.

Liz's Unique Bed and Breakfast. Old world charm at affordable rates. Guests will awaken to the fragrance of homemade delicacies and fresh ground coffee. Call Liz, a gracious and knowledgeable hostess. 415-648-2515.



Private Yoga Lessons tailored to your needs and goals. Call for references and complimentary first meeting. Christina Drakos, registered Yoga teacher, 415-731-3465.

Imagine a Watercolor of Your Home or garden. Commissions from \$85, plus tax. Specializing in houses, cityscapes, storefronts, and views of San Francisco. Free consultation. You'll see samples of my work and we'll discuss your idea for a painting. Call Susan Sternau at 285-0696, or look at my work first at www.artmecca.com.

Rental Short-Term: Noe Valley view location; two guest suites with furnished living/bedroom areas, private baths, private phone lines, private entrances; shared kitchen/laundry; ideal for visiting family/friends, business travelers; weekly, monthly rates. 285-7189.

Guitar Lessons. Noe Valley, Bernal Heights. Former Pickle Family Circus music director, composer of Academy Award-winning film. B.A. Berklee, 20 years of teaching experience. All ages, beginners welcome. Fun, reasonable. Mark, 282-8244.

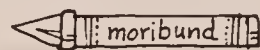
The Journey of Pre-Marriage. A six-week group for couples exploring the realms of engagement. Clarify your intentions for marriage and navigate the process of engagement in a safe and supportive atmosphere. Limited to four couples. Call Chris Kughn, M.A., M.F.T. intern #34106, supervised by Julie Albert, M.F.T. #28884, at 415-241-8869 for more information and initial interview.

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Got Goals? Get a Coach! Want to write a book, get a new job? Want to improve your relationship or get into one? Want to clarify your highest values and learn how to live them? Call for free introductory session. Valerie Hearn, Ph.D. 415-824-3701, vhearn@earthlink.net.

Home and Office Cleaning. Excellent references. Thorough, reliable, professional, and reasonably priced. Offering service seven days a week. For more details, call Rosanja, 415-255-8506.



Therapy Office for Rent one day per week. Furnished room and waiting area in suite with other therapists. \$120 per month for one full day and evening. Jan, 415-821-1015.

House Cleaning. Excellent references, professional, and reasonably priced. Six years experience. For more details, call 650-1121, Iva and Marlene.

Meditation Workshop. This is a practical workshop that will enable students to begin earnest meditation on their own. Suitable for both beginners and experienced meditators who want to be inspired. Tuesday, June 13, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Gourmet Vegetarian Cuisine delivered to your doorstep. Diverse menus, naturally low in fat, cholesterol, and salt. Treat yourself right! Gift certificates available. For a monthly menu call Jane, 826-2133; www.sirius.com/~scottstfjane.html.

House Cleaning... homes and apartments. Professional. References available. call 650-758-4817, Shirley and Gilmar.

Tax Preparation for individuals, financial services for travelers and the distracted. Enrolled agent licensed to represent clients before the IRS. Reasonable rates. 10% discount on first tax return with this ad. 415-695-1819. Gretchen Beck, E.A.

Kindermusik With Dianne. Fun music and movement program for newborns through five years old. Inner Richmond location. Call for information or a free preview class. 415-561-9754.

Who Are Paul and Judy? They are experts at finding easy and fun ways to make a second income for people. Call today at 415-267-4891.

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Housecleaner Available. 12 years experience. Wonderful references. I speak English, and own car. Call Rosane at 415-885-2215.

Transform Your Jungle into a paradise. Pruning, cleanups, planting, lawns, irrigation, maintenance. Call Jorge at 826-7840 for free estimates. Remember, it's pruning time.

Neighborhood Haulers. Relocations: man and truck, \$35 per hour. Debris removal. Free estimates. Our 17th year. 415-282-7467.

Words Wanted: The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of poems, stories, and essays, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Send manuscript and self-addressed, stamped envelope, plus name, phone, and email to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.



The Scoop on Class Ads

IT'S EASY. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **30¢ A WORD**, and send us a check or money order for the total amount. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as just one word.)

Then mail your ad copy and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15TH OF THE MONTH** before the month you'd like to advertise in. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

10 FOR 10 DISCOUNT: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the two-month July/August 2000 issue, distributed in Noe Valley starting June 30. **THE DEADLINE FOR CLASS ADS IS JUNE 15, 2000.**

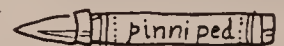
Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or email at this time. However, there's one consolation: The ads are displayed on our web site free of charge. Go to www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by an SASE. Thank you.

Short-Term Rental: Furnished bedroom with a great view in Noe Valley apartment, shared with professional woman. One month minimum, four months maximum. \$800. Easy street parking, quiet, laundry, near Muni. Prefer woman. 415-821-7738.

Creative Play Weekend and drop-in group. Lila! Divine Play. Aug. 18 to 20, Santa Cruz Mountains. \$175 to \$250. Lila! Mondays, 7 to 9 p.m. Soulful, playful community. Call 415-561-9330.

Phil's Window Cleaning Service. Reliable/courteous. Free estimates for residential/commercial. 668-8310.



WE ARE ONLINE!
Every month the Class Ads and our news and feature stories are posted on our web site.
www.noevalleyvoice.com

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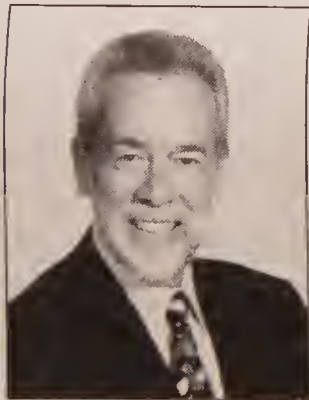
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Summer Scramble

By Mazook

CONGRADUATIONS go out to the class of 2000. The graduation ceremonies at James Lick Middle School must have been bittersweet for Principal Michael Eddings. It was his last year at Lick.

He is being transferred to district headquarters, where he will work with the new school superintendent. Mr. Eddings will also be returning to school himself, to work on his doctorate.

The new principal coming to James Lick this fall will be Janice Daniels, who has been an assistant principal over at Aptos Middle School for the past five years.

The *Voice* confirmed this news with James Lick staff, as well as with Laurel Turner, president of the Parents Teachers Students Association.

Laurel says she and the kids will be sad to see Eddings go. "He was a great principal because he had really good rapport with the students," she says.

Laurel is also moving on next year, now that her daughter Jordan is graduating with the class of 2000. She says the incoming PTSA leader will be Rachel Hahner.

I asked Laurel if there was any one thing she wished she wasn't leaving behind for the staff and students to deal with. "Fixing the bathrooms! They are disgusting," she says with exasperation. "We have been working with the custodians to keep them clean, but they are truly in desperate need of repair, and the district should do something about it now."

☎ ☎ ☎

IN THE MEANTIME, the James Lick kids have published a book of poetry that will be available for \$5 at Cover to Cover Books this month. The book, called *The Equity Collage*, has 160 poems written by the school's sixth- and eighth-graders with the help of their poet-in-residence, Brenda Nasio.

Brenda, who has lived in Noe Valley for almost 20 years, spends about 60 hours a year at Lick as one of the California Poets in the Schools. "It has been a very successful program because the kids get very enthusiastic and creative," says Brenda. "The principal, Michael Eddings, has been very supportive of our program."

She says this year's poems were inspired by a series of collages the students made and exhibited at the school. "The theme was, what is diversity all about and how do we view each other and get along in society." During the year, students in classes taught by Donna Werra, Corky Kern, Vivian Alcalay, and Matthew Podowski studied collage by the likes of Picasso, Matisse, and Robert Rauschenberg. Then, with Brenda as muse, they wrote poems as an accompaniment.

Brenda says she was very impressed with the poems. "They were all really good," she said, "and we are even submitting one to the California Poets in the Schools statewide anthology, which will select the best 70 from the 30,000 students involved in the statewide competition." That one, titled "Twilight," was written by Lick eighth-grader (and Noe Valleyan) Frances Grimstad.

Another student, Jennifer Duong, read her poem at the Main Library in a special citywide event in April. "I felt happy to see my poem in the book," says Jennifer.

By the way, proceeds from the sales of *The Equity Collage* will go toward Lick student programs, art supplies, and study

ZIPPY



"IT'S ACADEMIC"



BILL GRIFFIN



trips. I would suggest that you buy early and buy often. Maybe you can forgo next week's State Lottery ("and the kids win, too") and give directly to the school.

☎ ☎ ☎

SUPERVISOR MARK LENO showed up at Fire Station 11 (on 26th Street) Saturday morning, May 20, to personally take a hand in his campaign to rid us of those evil mercury thermometers.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Department of the Environment, and San Francisco Fire Department are all participating in the effort to phase out mercury thermometers, which, when broken, pose a threat to our water supply. During the month of May, the city allowed residents who turned in their old mercury thermometers to the fire station to receive new digital ones for free.

Mark has authored legislation "that bans the sale, manufacture, or importation of mercury" in the City and County of San Francisco. "We are the second city in the United States to ban mercury — Duluth, Minnesota, being the first — and Sweden banned it in 1992," says Leno.

"The mercury thermometer is the largest single contributor of mercury pollution in our landfill. Although each one contains only one-half to one gram of mercury, that is enough to contaminate, for example, 220 Olympic-sized pools," warns our supervisor.

According to Leno, the "mercury-free May" campaign was a major success. "We doubled our goal in the thermometer exchange."

If you missed the May trade-in, you

should take your mercury thermometers for safe disposal to the San Francisco Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at 101 Tunnel Ave. (near Candlestick Point), or call 554-4333 for further details and maybe some discount coupons.

Hopefully, this thermometer danger will pass with the speed of Mercury.

☎ ☎ ☎

TEMPERATURES WERE RISING at the Friends of Noe Valley meeting last month when the topic shifted from a new YMCA in the neighborhood (see this month's front page) to the so-called "Manhattanization" of Noe Valley caused by the rampant construction of "monster homes."

According to FNV's Claire Pilcher, who presided over the meeting, "we had over 40 people attending, some of whom were developers and architects and others who were homeowners or renters. We had a great, lively meeting."

Claire says many people are reporting demolitions of smaller houses, which are then replaced by much larger structures, usually three stories over a garage. "They limit their height to 39 feet 6 inches, a half

a foot under the 40-foot limit with what is essentially a four-story house."

It looks like a "planning committee" of 10 people has been formed by the Friends that will set out to create alliances with other Noe Valley neighborhood groups. "So far, we are working with Upper Noe Neighbors, the Noe Valley Democratic Club, and the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, and looking for more groups who might want to join us."

Their main beef, says Claire, is: "When are we going to start following the residential guidelines of Prop. M?" (Prop. M, passed by the voters many moons ago, says new construction in S.F. should conform to neighborhood character.)

Meanwhile, Supervisor Leno (who lives in Noe Valley) has also taken great interest in this problem and has called for public hearings on what he describes as "the phenomena of monster homes."

The hearings will be held on Tuesday, June 6, at 10 a.m. at City Hall under the auspices of the Board of Supervisors'

Continued on Next Page

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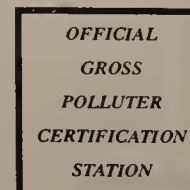
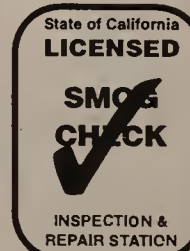
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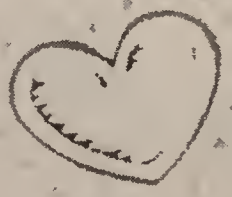
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RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

housing and social policy committee, chaired by Leno.

☎ ☎ ☎

SEVERAL NOE VALLEY businesses were monster winners in the "Bay Area Favorites" poll, conducted by the *S.F. Chronicle* this spring. Barney's, a chain which has long had a Downtown Noe Valley outpost, came up number one for Bay Area hamburgers. In the sushi department, Hamano Sushi, only in Noe Valley, was among the top three restaurants, along with Ebisu over on Ninth Avenue, and Kirala in Berkeley.

Second only to Oakland's Grace Bakery was our very own Noe Valley Bakery and Bread Company, on 24th Street. Manhattan Bagel (a chain) came in third Bay-wide for their holey specialty. Double Rainbow Ice Cream (now available at Fountain of Youth on Church Street) came in third behind Ben & Jerry's and Baskin Robbins (excuse me?). The third best yoga studio in the Bay Area was Yoga Shala. It's at Castro and 25th.

☎ ☎ ☎

NOE VALLEY BAR OWNERS have been reeling from the recent crackdown by City Hall against smoking in ye olde public houses.

In April, notices and inspectors from the Department of Public Health (DPH) and demands from the city attorney's office were sent to many bar owners across the city (and to *all* bar owners in Downtown Noe Valley), warning that there would be strict enforcement of the smoking ban in their drinking establishments, and fines of \$2,500 per day for any proprietor who failed to enforce the ban.

Tom Rivard, senior environmental health inspector for the DPH, says he wants "to bring all the bars in the city and county into compliance with a law that has been in effect for over two years." Because of the recent crackdown, Rivard says, "the compliance levels are very, very good at this point."

According to 24th Street bar owner Vince Hogan, the Dubliner is in full compliance, but not in the way you might think. When Vince's business dropped dramatically last year after he started 86'ing people who lit up inside the bar or restroom, "I had no choice but to redesign the bar so that I could accommodate both smokers and nonsmokers," Vince says.

His "redesign" has just been completed, with approval by the Health Department, and the Dubliner now has a three-sided "smoking room" in the front of the bar. "As far as I know, we are the second bar in the city to install a 'smoking lounge,'

TWILIGHT

By Frances Grimstad

Neither nor
Either or
Both

Darkness
The part of me that no one sees
No one hears
When it shows
No one cares
They think it's a faze
It will go away
True

Light
The part of me everyone expects
They see it
They hear it
To wallow in it
Embrace
Conceal the darkness
Till I can hide

I still am
I be
I am both dark
And light
To say I am one
Would leave me
Undone

I consider myself
To be one
Yet many

When I see dark
I see light

To be me
You must not divide
But combine

I am
Twilight
Grey
Indefinable
Unique

Frances Grimstad's poem "Twilight" is one of 160 published in this year's poetry anthology by students at James Lick Middle School. The book, titled *The Equity Collage*, is available at Cover to Cover and other local bookstores.

the first being Harrington's downtown," says Vince.

Wayne Basso, who owns Noe's Bar on Church Street, says his solution has been to set up tables and chairs outside for patrons who want to smoke. "But I am seriously thinking about creating a smoking lounge," says Wayne.

Over at the Peaks on Castro, bartender Steve Niles says he has posted the Health Department's notice on the wall, and the bar is already in full compliance. Still, the city recently sent out its inspectors to take a sniff.

☎ ☎ ☎

THAT'S THIRTY, folks. See you next month. Remember to buy the books of poems at Cover to Cover. Thanks, kids. ☐

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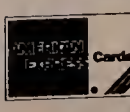
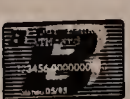
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The Move Back

◆ BY MARK ZIEMANN ◆

ONE DAY, after living in San Francisco for nine years, I decided to move back to my hometown of Chicago. My parents were getting older and I wanted to spend some more time with them. I missed seeing my two brothers as well. I was longing for that first snowfall of the year, the change of seasons, and the red brick buildings. I needed a new life.

The drive out didn't take long. Nine days in an old Toyota. The sights were fun—the Great Salt Lake, Mount Rushmore, the Badlands. But no sooner had I hit the edge of Chicago, than I felt out of place. I was in a crowded city with people anxious to get home.

Apparently, people don't just get up and move to a place like Chicago. I would meet random strangers and they'd say, "Why did you move back here?" looking at me as if I'd lost my mind. They'd make some comment about how I was going to suffer in the winter. This is the city of big shoulders, after all.

But it was good to see old friends and to get pizza without having to remember to order tomato sauce as an extra ingredient, like in California. I was enjoying that sense of being somewhere new. I could start fresh.

I found an apartment with a spacious room to work in and good light. I could walk out onto the fire escape, where I had a good view of the city. Across the alley lived the eternal barking dog. Sometimes he would start barking in the morning and bark all day. After a while, you didn't even hear him anymore. Then, you'd be in the middle of doing something, and notice he's still barking and he's never stopped.

I walked around the city. There were the old places, and lots of new ones. It had been so long since I could go out on a summer night without a jacket! The beer gardens. The smell of beef grilling in the air. I'm home again! I knew I would come back some day. I did the right thing. I wasn't even thinking about San Francisco anymore.

I got a job working at a toy store downtown. I called my old friend Nick. Nick's drinking problems had gotten out of hand in the past few years. He told me his family was having a gathering and invited me to come by next weekend. I told him I was going out with my own family

that afternoon, but we could meet up in the evening.

My family was getting together for our first outing in years. We went to a train museum in Union, Illinois. We got to ride old trains and buses. As we got off the last train ride, my dad tripped over the tracks and landed right on his head. I remember seeing his head hit the cement and the impact jerking it back. Bright red blood came gushing from his 74-year-old head, lit up all the more by the sunlight of a late summer afternoon. A crowd gathered as my dad lay there stunned. Now my family was the grim afternoon attraction.

My brothers and my mom retreated to the train station. They couldn't take the sight of blood. I got

down and held onto my dad's hand as if to keep the life from escaping. He was still warm. That was good. I kept talking to him. Soon he started coming around. The ambulance came, and my whole family rode off to the hospital. After a few hours, he was all stitched up and asking where we were going for beer. I never made it to Nick's.

Two weeks later, I got a call from Nick's stepmother. She said to call her. I knew right away it was something bad. I returned the call that night. She told me that Nick had died, and his wake was tomorrow. I felt weak. I had known Nick for almost 25 years, and now he was dead only a week before his 40th

birthday. They just found him dead, riding the "El" one day. Maybe he was going downtown for pizza. A couple of nights later, I had a dream that Nick sent me this beautiful woman and we had passionate sex. Nick's gift to me before he went away.

WINTER WAS on its way. And with the first chill I caught

my first cold, as I always did when I lived here. It lingered on as usual for a couple of weeks. It went away, but soon after I got another cold. Then it snowed.

Winter in the Midwest is no place to be single. And I was having a case of single like a bad case of hemorrhoids. It's so hard to get out. It's not only cold, but damp cold. It goes right through to your bones.

By January I had caught my third cold of the year, and people were telling me, "You're lucky, this is a mild winter." Mild nothing. It was freezing. It was dark. Cold. Damp. It hadn't bothered me before, but now my blood had thinned.

I sat out on the fire escape and admired the evening view. The buildings lit up like burning embers. So large. So distant.

On the last freezing cold night of the year, my car died. It was the middle of March. My brother Rej and I were driving over an icy viaduct. I heard a loud "pop." I knew this was not good. I pulled over and opened the hood—the fan had broken off and destroyed most of the engine. We called my mom and got a ride back to her house. I felt like I was regressing, calling Mom to the rescue. I didn't have enough money to fix the car or buy a new one, so now I was a pedestrian.

The next few months I worked a spotty schedule, due to a post-holiday drop in sales at the toy store. I went out with the manager, Claudine, a few times, but we didn't click. Things were not going well in the Windy City. The streets were too wide, and the trucks with their elongated trailers just seemed to cough more exhaust up at me. After all those years away, I no longer had a purpose. I was taking a bath in yesterday's bath water.

On the tenth of June, I loaded my belongings into a moving van and put them into storage. The eternal barking dog barked the whole time. The next day I was on a plane back to San Francisco. ◆

Mark Ziemann is an artist/illustrator living in Noe Valley. He teaches at the Art Institutes International.

THE LAST PAGE

Mission Dating

◆ BY BREE LEMAIRE ◆

LET ME TELL YOU, having an affair in the Mission is so difficult. First, he said he'd meet me at 6 p.m. at Walgreen's on Mission.

"Walgreen's on 30th and Mission?"

"Yes, we can meet there," he said, "then go over to Taco Bell for dinner."

"Okay, okay, Walgreen's at six."

This is a hell of a relationship, I thought. One time we met at the Chevron on Valencia, just enough time for him to get his gas and tell me he had the children that night and couldn't see me, like I couldn't see them in the car.

So, 6 o'clock rolls around, I'm standing there out front of Walgreen's. Two panhandlers hitting me up for change, another with the *Street Sheet*. Guys standing all around, spitting, smoking, waiting for the bus. Does he show up? Sure he does. Drives by with the kids in the car motioning to me that he has them again, and I watch them drive by, all smiles, while I stand there on 30th and Mission. Here I thought we had a date.

I met him at work where I answer the phone. I work at that glass place

on Valencia. He is the Fed-Ex delivery guy. Comes by every day around 3:00. One thing led to another and last November he asked me out.

Now I had my hesitations about dating someone from work. Like they say, "Don't screw where you eat," or something like that. Anyway, he took me to Denny's Serramonte and we had the best time. We both got that stir-fry slam and I knew then we had a lot in common. Then he told me about his kids and his ex-wife. Call me crazy, but I think I'm in love.

You know, he left me stranded at Walgreen's that day, but at 4:30 the next morning my phone rings. He has to get up early to go to work. It wasn't like he was up all night or anything like that.

"Honey," he says, "I just can't stop thinking about you. I got to see you."

He wants me to meet him at Grand Auto on Valencia and Mission at 5:30 p.m. Says he can park his car in the Grand Auto lot and then come meet me out front. If he doesn't have his kids, we can go over to the St. Luke's Hospital cafeteria for dinner.

"I can't wait." ◆

Bree LeMaire is a San Francisco writer, HIV researcher, and mother of five.

WRITERS

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, literary nonfiction, or poetry for publication on The Last Page. Please mail manuscripts, which should be no more than 1,200 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or email jaxvoice@aol.com. Don't forget to include your name, address, and phone number, and an SASE if you want your manuscript returned. We look forward to hearing from you.